THE

PALL MALL GAZETTE

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WHO IS TO HAVE THE LAND OF OPHIR?

THERE is a welcome opportunity afforded us just now of putting the question as to the over-lordship of South Africa on an intelligible and stable basis. The news to hand from the Cape by yesterday's mail giving details as to the frontier dispute which led to the wounding of Commander GROBELAAR shows that the time has come for us to take a firm and resolute stand if the responsibilities which we have undertaken are to be fulfilled. The Boers have thrown a pontoon over the Limpopo river, as if preparing for a raid into the Protectorate—a circumstance which, taken in connection with the doings of Commander GROBELAAR, indicates clearly enough that we have either to make our protectorate a reality or to give up all idea of acting as the dominant power in the land of Ophir. It seems that Commander GROBELAAR was recently appointed Envoy of the Transvaal to LOBENGULA—why, it does not exactly appear. GROBELAAR, accompanied by seven Boers and six Matabeles, seems to have crossed the Macloutsie river into the British Protectorate, into territory in dispute between KHAMA and LOBENGULA. A few of KHAMA'S men were sent naturally enough to inquire their business, whereupon GROBELAAR seized their "guns, and ordered them to be whipped" (a high-handed proceeding, thoroughly characteristic of the dealings of the Boers with their natives). "The men returned to their regiment "and reported the matter, when a stronger party of KHAMA'S "people advanced to retake the guns. The Boers fired upon "them, and the fire was returned, Commander GROBELAAR "being wounded and one Boer killed. In the mêlée which "ensued another was killed by a blow from an axe, and "a fourth wounded. The remaining Boers then fled." The incident then terminated—for a time. Sir SIDNEY SHIPPARD, the administrator of Bechuanaland, has been ordered to make an inquiry into the circumstances, and we presume that inquiry is now proceeding.

Meanwhile Lord SALISBURY has taken a vigorous step, which, if he will but follow it up, will settle the question satisfactorily enough. He has notified the Transvaal Government that the Matabele, Mashona, and Makalaka countries, and the northern portion of KHAMA'S territory as far as the Zambesi, are solely within the sphere of British influence. Thus the land of Ophir which stretches northward from the Transvaal to the Zambesi, with all its incalculable stores of gold, is to belong to us. It is "solely within the sphere of British influence." Brave words these, and very satisfactory to those of us who have for years laboured in season and out of season in order to rouse public opinion to a due sense of the importance of our opportunities in South Africa. But words alone will not secure us the land of Ophir, will not even prevent all that is richest and best in it being snapped up before our eyes by the encroaching Boers. Exclusive influence can only be maintained by the exclusive exercise of authority. If we declare our resolve to shut rivals out of any territory, we thereby assume responsibility for that territory which we cannot evade. What we want to know is what steps Lord SALISBURY is taking to give effect to his words. If he is taking no steps they will have no effect. Our protectorate will give no protection to the unfortunate wretches who trusted in our promises, and we shall see the dismal tragedy of the eating up of Zululand repeated under our eyes on a far wider scale.

What, then, must be done? First and foremost there must be a clear recognition on the part of the Home Government that the immense tract of territory between the northern frontier of the Cape Colony and the Zambesi cannot be treated as a mere appendage to the Anglo-Dutch community that has grown up under the shadow of our naval station at Simon's Bay. Natal is not under the Cape, neither is Zululand, and neither must be the land of Ophir. It lies hundreds of miles north of Natal and Zululand, over which the High Commissioner has no control. It is almost as absurd to give the High Commissioner at Cape Town control over the gold deposits of the land of Ophir as it would be to claim for him a voice in the affairs of Zanzibar. The South Africa over which the High Commissioner has jurisdiction ought not to extend at the furthest beyond the northern frontier of Basutoland. The immense tract of fertile and agricultural land that extends north of the Cape Colony to the Zambesi should be administered directly by the Crown—the southern settled part of it as a Crown Colony, the northern tract, which is larger than the Cape Colony and Natal put together, as a British protectorate. Imagine the absurdity of allowing an official under the thumb of Melbourne politicians to have absolute authority over the whole of Western Australia, and we gain some conception of the folly of placing the land of Ophir under the High Commissioner at the Cape. There are few things which the English democracy will more fiercely resent when it has time to survey its inheritance than the way in which its former rulers have played chuckfarthing with the immense undeveloped territories which should have been reserved for the Empire. In Australia, for instance, we have allowed the handful of colonists who have settled on the rim of the Continent to assume rights of ownership over the whole of the interior. We are in no fancy to play the fool in this fashion in South Africa. We look, therefore, to Lord SALISBURY to take immediate steps to make our Protectorate of the fair lands stretching north to the Zambesi a reality, and not a sham, and to place on the frontier of our Protectorate, as Warden of the Marches, responsible directly to Downing-street, a colonial Governor of the Anglo-Indian type, who will see to it that future GROBELAARS will have some other police to face than the poor black fellows whom the Commander treated so scurvily.

THE SUM OF THE SESSION.—II.

GAINS AND LOSSES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

(BY A SPECTATOR.)

IT was an omission not to mention, before passing on from the Treasury Bench, Sir J. Gorst. He has proved himself perhaps the second ablest debater on that bench. It is to be feared that in him the bad traditions of the India Office find a champion whose engaging candour disarms, and whose ready lucidity diverts, even the most determined attack.

4.—THE OTHER FRONT BENCH.

From the Treasury Bench we cross the floor of the House. Glancing at what, awaiting the swing of the pendulum, is the Treasury Bench of the future, we see among the Opposition leaders no one who has done better this Session than Mr. H. H. Fowler. Unquestionably Mr. Fowler has made good his position as one of the strong men on a bench where Mr. Gladstone tops all around him by head and shoulders. Mr. Fowler has not the "lawyer's mind," in the sense that Sir R. Webster, Sir Charles Russell, and the other great barristers have it. He is not an advocate, but a solicitor. He has the solicitor's head for details, the solicitor's hard-headed practical grasp of the real bearings of a question. To this he adds a sturdy, persevering spirit, and an admirable power of driving the right points home in debate. Of the Grand Old Man himself no more need be said than that he seems even grander and no whit older than before. True, once or twice his voice has seemed to be failing him; but by reserving it, and by a discreet habit of never sitting out a debate, he has husbanded a vigour of which only on great occasions he seems too prodigal. On these he has throughout shown the greatest force and animation. However, except for sporadic passages of great eloquence, such as that peroration at the beginning of the session which caused a scene of such enthusiasm, the session has not heard anything worthy to rank with his finest efforts. Mr. Gladstone is still in fact, if not in name, the leader of the House, the *Princeps Senatus*; and when, on such occasions as the vote of condolence to the German Emperor, members forget party proprieties for a moment, it is to him they look for leadership. For the rest, if the Dillon debate the other day was a move scarcely characteristic of an old parliamentary hand, that is not the side of Mr. Gladstone's character which those who admire him most esteem the highest. There is not much to say about Mr. Morley this session. It is difficult to avoid something of a *nisi imperasset* feeling about him: a regret that the writer of "Compromise" ever became the author of compromises. Still he has made one or two effective little speeches; and though his parliamentary style, curiously enough, has never equalled his success on a platform, he has improved greatly in force and readiness. The incident which gave the *Times* opportunity for its sneer about a "philosophic standard of honour" was nothing at all, and was only made much of because there was no answer to Mr. Morley's indictment about Mr. Redmond. Sir William Harcourt has made plenty of rattling speeches

in the old style. He remains unrivalled in the part of Bill Sloggins. He was especially vigorous in exposing the gradual whittling down of the county councils to a "turnpike trust." As a leader, in place of Mr. Gladstone, he was not, perhaps, so successful. Mr. Morley did better. For instance, on the Commission Bill, when his position demanded a conciliatory tone which should leave the Government no excuse for refusing concession, Sir William rivalled Mr. Healy in "making the running." Mr. Stansfeld, on the Local Government Bill, "watched the case" for the Liberal party with care and credit, though he made a loophole rather unfortunately by that suggestion about giving the powers by provisional order. Sir Charles Russell was unlucky in the fact that his best speeches came side by side with exceptionally strong efforts of other speakers in the same debate—such as Mr. Bradlaugh's on Trafalgar-square. Mr. Shaw Lefevre has not "scored" in the House as much as his visit to Ireland deserved.

5.—THE PARNELLITES.

In the compact phalanx led by Mr. Parnell, the hero of this last campaign is of course Mr. William O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien has always been a man of mark among the Parnellites for certain qualities. There is a kind of melancholy earnestness, which is more conspicuous in John Dillon alone; and Mr. Balfour has seen to it that Mr. Dillon shall figure little in the annals of the last session. But it is, of course, by a series of splendid oratorical triumphs that Mr. O'Brien has won his spurs in these last few months—beginning with that first impressive speech which showed Mr. Balfour how good a school is prison for Irish patriotism, and ending with an only less fine harangue in the Dillon debate. If only Mr. O'Brien can control his excitement from running away with his voice, he will be remembered as one of the orators of the present Parliament. Mr. Sexton, a name that springs to mind in this connection, though welcomed back to active work this session, has done little to support the immense reputation he had made as a speaker. His first big speech had the old vice. It was windy. Since then, however, he has shown some fine rapier play more than once; and he has his old mastery of words, which makes it the more regrettable that he should lapse into such weak violence as in his metaphor about the Liberal Unionists and Mr. T. W. Russell. Of Mr. Parnell himself it is scarcely necessary to say that he is still a master of men, still in absolute control of his party (with perhaps the exception of Dr. Tanner), still holding the same sway over the House as a whole. He has made one or two really fine speeches. For scathing bitterness, the speech about Mr. Chamberlain, which was cut short at twelve, has been rarely equalled. Every word palpitated with scorn; not a phrase was superfluous. The scramble for party advantage over the Commission Bill, with the poor-spirited "hedging" in which it resulted, may fairly excuse the man for whom everything hangs on the issue, for those outbursts of anger and indignation which would not have seemed extraordinary but for the iron control which Mr. Parnell is wont to keep over these emotions. It is fair to add that once or twice the Irish leader fell from his usual standard of cold politeness and dignity. He should leave such lapses to "Tim." Mr. Healy has been of late incorrigible, but he must be forgiven all for the many damaging and damning attacks, and the few good and true defences that he has made; and for the irresistible wild humour that overflows all. Mr. T. P. O'Connor, one of the most successful men of the day, who always aims at what he knows he can do, and does it, deserves a word. He has made some first-rate debating speeches: great fluency, force, and grasp of points atoning for a rather bullying manner. Those who heard Mr. Chamberlain's speech of a few days before, will not censure the impetuous "T. P." too harshly for the "Judas" incident. Mr. E. Harrington has made some of his honest, rough, indignant speeches. Others will be heard of more in the autumn session. As a party the Parnellites are stronger than ever.

6.—THE LIBERAL UNIONISTS.

It is a great pity, for one reason, that there are as many Liberal Unionists in the House as in the country. For it means that Mr. T. W. Russell will most likely lose his seat. Mr. Russell is one of the most interesting men in the House. He is bright and voluble and ready. He thinks for himself. He always knows what he means, and always says it as well as it can be said. He is eaten up with zeal; he puts a hundredweight of emphasis on every word: on Irish subjects he is immense. Of course he is very bitter, and very unfair to his fellow-countrymen. And he has certainly lost this session. His position was unique but untenable. It is now gone. Like Mr. Chamberlain, he knows that the Government have his weight. He has tried the game of bluff with them; they have won, and he must now go their way. Mr. Chamberlain, on the other hand, has gained. His fortunes were at their lowest ebb. They have not gained, perhaps, but he has. There he is, smart, shrewd, biding his time, a man to be reckoned with: among the most detested in the House. He has spoken seldom, and said not a word too much. His stab at Mr. Parnell was perfect, till it was avenged. If he has gained little over the Fisheries, and nothing over the new Unionist programme, he has reminded the House that it contains, especially on personal issues, no cleverer arguer, no more adroit debater, no man who can say so neatly exactly what he wants. Lord Hartington has gained in a more solid way. This dignified, quiet, immobile man has the utter confidence of his handful of followers, and the respect of every one else. Of Sir H. James and Mr. Caine little need be said. If anything, they have lost, as faithful Mr. Finlay has lost, by being *too* faithful—to the Government. Mr. Finlay is still a clever debater and a respected man. But he has got well into the Tory rut. As a party the Liberal Unionists have lost. The union of the Unionists has stood firm at their cost.

7.—THE RADICAL WING.

Of the Radical wing none has distinguished himself except Mr. Bradlaugh. For all their good work in the day of small things about the police, &c., Mr. Stuart, Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. C. Graham, and others have deserved our thanks. But they have, from various causes, scored little in the House; and they have failed, alas! to make much impact on the King Logs of the Front Bench. Mr. Labouchere is where he was. The Autumn Session will have more to say of the Radical wing.

8.—THE WITS.

We must not put Mr. Labouchere among the "funny men" any longer, it is understood. But he has done better in this department than in a more serious direction. Colonel Saunderson, after some humorous efforts early in the session, has become, as Mr. Healy said, "a dull man without his quotations." Sir W. Lawson does not seem to have recovered himself yet. The cap sits uneasily, the bells are jangled. A few poor puns, and two false quantities, are the sum of his humour. He has done better in a serious way. Admiral Field, on his own subjects, combines sound sense with a fun which is half unconscious but wholly irresistible. But the new recruit is Dr. Wallace, who in one speech, on Scotch business of all subjects—a very long speech, it is true, which was docked by the Speaker—has leaped into fame as a wit.

9.—DR. TANNER, MR. CONYBEARE, AND MR. DE LISLE.

"Who has gained the most this Session?"—"Why, Conybeare, of course: he has gained a month's holiday." So say the wags. But Mr. Conybeare's friends—those who see in him, with all his faults, a sturdy, independent, defiant Democrat, a useful man to make the running, and one who will do unpopular work—they do not speak so lightly of Mr. Conybeare's escapade. It was, in fact, only the climax of a long course of very ill-judged parliamentary ill-manners, and Radicals who see Mr. Conybeare's good points should be the first to admit the truth. No doubt there are certain occasions when parliamentary etiquette must yield. But such protests should be kept, like port wine, for great occasions. Constant "nipping" leaves you nothing in reserve, and demoralizes with every repetition. When Mr. Conybeare went, there were few who did not heave a sigh of relief. Many of the offences which have led to that unanimity of feeling were unnecessary, and, it may be hoped, will now be discontinued. Mr. Conybeare can do better things. Now Dr. Tanner is often forgiven where Mr. Conybeare is not, because of his humour, his obvious good intentions, his impulsive way of laying himself open, his schoolboy qualities. Everyone feels that he is at bottom a good fellow. Still, it must be said that just lately he has irritated his Irish colleagues by an impracticability which would not yield even to them. And that, if continued, would be the beginning of the end for Dr. Tanner, whom many would be sorry to lose. Mr. De Lisle has gained this Session, for he has refrained entirely from provoking the scenes of former custom; indeed, some of the Tory "young bloods" have tried to take his place.

10.—SOME PRIVATE MEMBERS.

In spite of the Metropolitan Board Commission and the Channel Tunnel debate, Lord Randolph has lost. Every one else knows that he has made a mistake: worst of all, he knows it himself. For the rest, his speech on Mr. Conybeare had every fault which such a speech could have. *That* did not better him. But he has tried hard to regain the weight and dignity which he has lost. Mr. Whitbread has made some good and impressive speeches. Mr. Lockwood, Mr. Baumann, Mr. Hanbury, have not gone forward much. Of the new members, it need only be said that Mr. Darling is better than he was painted, and that Ayr must yield to Southampton so far as contribution to debate goes.

11.—THE CHAIR.

In the violent scenes of the Session, it has been all the more remarked with how splendid a voice for his post the Speaker is gifted. Like the bell on the Inchcape Rock, it booms sonorous through the storm, warning rash mariners off from the dangers of "suspension." The Speaker's voice is as good as ever. It is not too much to say that for the other qualities which gave so much promise the same cannot be said. Mr. Courtney has proved that it is possible to avoid even the suspicion of any unfairness to the Irish members. The Speaker does his best to be fair: Mr. Courtney cannot help it. As Chairman of Committees, Mr. Courtney's shrewd, quiet, stolid impartiality and tact have proved superior to the dangers even of the closure.

12.—COLONEL HUGHES-HALLETT.

It would be unfair to couple any other names with that of Colonel Hughes-Hallett. The Tories have cut the Colonel in the House, and chatted with him when unobserved. He has sat immobile during the whole session: he has never opened his lips: but he has voted. And therefore the Government have sent a deputation to support him at Rochester. He will stand again. Has he then gained? Has he brazened it out? We shall see. Perhaps the Government will prove to have lost more than their black sheep has gained.

LADY GEORGIANA FULLERTON.*

WE shall never tire of hearing what we can believe to be true about our neighbour. Even if it be mean and egotist chatter, the authentic report of another person's experiences will find readers, and many of them, if it shows how success was won, or how some notable career was infested by evils. We know so little, we are so isolated, that we are eager to hear the secrets of other hearts. Half the charm of "Robert Elsmere" is because it expresses the author's faith, or unfaith, and not, as it is, a really good picture of English life and manners. We do not anticipate for this Life of Lady G. Fullerton a success such as Daudet or Tolstoi commands; yet we prophesy for it in its French form a more enduring value than for most "novels of the season." To translate Mrs. Craven's work properly is as difficult as to bottle the perfume of a rose garden on a summer morning: you may produce pot-pourri, or even attar, with much pains, but never the first indescribable and ethereal charm. Indeed, most French memoirs are inimitable, and in this Life we have at once to admire the art of the biographer and the quality of Lady Georgiana's goodness.

Lady G. Fullerton was the daughter of the Lord Granville who was our Ambassador in Paris for many years, and the sister of Lord Granville our ex-Foreign Secretary. She counted some half-dozen Dukes among her nearest relations; but she was chiefly known as the author of one of those novels which powerfully express the ruling sentiment of the day. "Ellen Middleton" appeared when English Christianity was in that ferment which is known as the "Oxford movement," and when every educated person was affected more or less by its tide. The story portrayed the agony of a guilty but sensitive and conscientious soul, only to be relieved by confession and absolution. Mr. Gladstone praised it in a review as he never praised any other book. Lord Brougham professed enthusiastic admiration, though he discovered in it "rank Popery." Miss Martineau and Miss Edgeworth were equally amazed by its literary and dramatic power. No one had suspected the reserved fine lady of their acquaintance of such strong-winged genius. She had not suspected it herself, and probably she would never have found it out had she not wanted more pocket-money for her charities. After forty years, though they have no superficial reference to our present "stream of tendency," "Ellen Middleton" and its successors are still read by people who love a fine atmosphere of ideally noble life and thought. Yet after reading Mrs. Craven's life of her we incline to admire the writer more than her books, great as was their success. She led what some would think an uneventful life. Some foreign travel, Italian and French, a marriage of affection, the death of a passionately loved son, her only child, on the verge of manhood, are the chief events in her seventy-three years on earth. Some interesting fragments of autobiography concerning her childhood, which was austère, after the educational fashion of the day—strangely austere when we think of our pampered children—some impressions of the year 1848 from an extremely Whig, if not Radical, point of view, draw us from page to page, but do not reveal much of herself. Still, they show her absolute calm under the gust of literary popularity; and between the lines we make out the violence of her struggle ere she adopted the "Roman obedience," her gradual perfection in the art of holy living, which was her dominant interest after her son's death, until in the concluding chapters of her life the splendid strength of her holy dying profoundly interest us as a sample of steadfast Christianity rooted in dogma. We do not know any recent memoir of pious people with the same ring as this. Mrs. Craven has, as all true artists do, emphasized the memorable traits of her subject by which it is individualized. The proud and passionate heart, the genius deemed in its first manifestation first-rate by first-rate judges, the courage to pass through a more seductive Vanity Fair than that of "The Pilgrim's Progress," and to win through the deep river this side of heaven with even more of triumphant faith. Using in fiction the most ardent and eloquent language, Lady G. Fullerton was continuously reticent about the springs of her spiritual life.

It is in some private notes, which Mrs. Craven has done well to publish, that we find that habitual "practice" of the Divine presence, that complete immersion of herself in God, which is the key to her active and beneficent life. She was all the more devoted to her relations and her friends, all the more tender to sufferers, from whatever cause. What a world might this be if rich men and women would resolve, as she did, "to practise poverty in every way in my power, in everything, using such things as are poorest and oldest and cheapest, within the limits of discretion and what is due to others. To consider my money as not belonging to myself, but to God and the poor." Indeed, work among the poor became her chief devotion. Her habitually simple dress—simple as a maid of all work's—her serious yet serene face, her smile of sympathy, were well known in the poorest Irish quarters of London. She had the valuable gift of setting others to work, and she had a chief part in establishing sisters of charity and other active communities in the dark places of the congested metropolis. It would be long to catalogue the charities she supported, and that have singularly thriven, but we are most interested in her conduct of her life her painstaking, unwearied neighbourliness, the distribution of her time, her calm punctuality, and a certain evenness of effort which wrought large results. Equally faithful to love and duty and to all family and friendly affections, hers was always a strenuous, unfaltering ascent *per aspera ad alta*. It is her hidden holiness which supplies the key to her successes and makes her noteworthy among so many philanthropists; the transfiguration of her worthy humanity to that spiritual beauty of the Christian victor, a vision of which alleviates the sadness of existence and makes us exclaim in spite of pessimistic reflection, "It is good for us to be here." Biographies like this solve some problems of our difficult world, which indeed can only be explained by glimpses such as Mrs. Craven's book gives us, in language attuned to its theme, of that action within the individual soul which leavens all in contact with it. When all is said of scientific progress, what has really lifted Europe above the rest of the world but lives of faith, of self-conquest, and of continuous aspiration? This is the high usefulness of memoirs such as these, that they constrain our eyes at least to look up and sometimes follow the same path to the same heights as Lady G. Fullerton attained.

* "Vie de Lady Georgiana Fullerton," Par Mdme. A. Craven. (Paris: Perrin. 1888.)
"Life of Lady Georgiana Fullerton. From the French of Mrs. A. Craven. By Henry J. Coleridge, S.J. (London: Richard Bentley. 1888.)

"LAJLA."

"Lajla. A Tale of Finmark." By Professor J. A. Friis. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.) Professor Friis seems to have a special liking for the Finnish name "Lajla," a variation of which (Laila) furnished the title of another story, not unlike the other in more respects than the title. In "Lajla" a slight story of a child lost in the snow and found by an old Lapp is made the nucleus for a vast amount of interesting information respecting the nomad life of the inhabitants of that dreary and shrill part of Scandinavia known as Finmark. Tales of adventures with the wolf, the arch enemy of the Lapp, and of his reindeer herds, are interwoven between the pictures of life on the fjelds or by the coast; quaint and fantastic superstitions concerning the reindeers are told by the mouths of old Finns, and much that is interesting as to the history of the Finns and their struggles for national liberty is aptly and successfully brought forward with the simpleness which is always one of the most attractive features of Prof. Friis's writings, whether he tells of uncanny myths and legends or whether he depicts scenes from the life of his friends, the Lapp and Finns. The translation is excellently clear and accurate.

AT COVENT GARDEN.

"How to make it pay?"—*Answer:* "Promenade Concerts!"—but of the right sort. That sort, which has baffled many conductors of repute, seems to have been discovered by Mr. Freeman Thomas and his *chef d'orchestre*, Mr. Gwyllym Crowe. What is the combination which attracted an audience big enough to pack the house from floor to ceiling? Nikita, Sims Reeves, a strong band, assisted by the military in gold and scarlet, and so on, but, above all, that most difficult, undefinable thing, a well-selected programme. There was not a seat provided in the pit, but the whole area was crowded as Nikita stepped forward all clothed in white, and, as Artemus Ward used to say he himself used to appear, "b 4 a c of upturned faces." To say that there was not "a dry eye in the house" when the young lady in a short dress and white satin shoes and her hair all down her back had finished dreaming she "dwelt in marble halls," would perhaps be "putting on side;" but certain it is that, whatever be her age, and whether or no she was carried off by wild Indians, Nikita pleased vastly, and blushed over her huge bouquet and shrugged her pretty shoulders and fled as if she had never before received an ovation. This was very nice, and all in the way of "good business," and doubly interesting as contrasted with Sims Reeves's performance—for he was at the other pole, both as regards style and age. He was in fair voice, and the reception of "My Pretty Jane," who must be considerably over fifty by this time, proved that, whether we are "a musical people" or not, there is something almost Spartan in our virtuous constancy to our old favourites. The attractions of Jane, in fact, almost led to a disturbance in the gallery, which was hardly allayed by the veteran tenor in person, whose grey head at last appeared with many a deprecating nod, "declining with thanks." He relented after his second song, and gave "Tom Bowling," after a scene of extraordinary excitement. We must add that Mr. Gwyllym Crowe's new choral waltz, "The Rose Queen," sung by Mr. Stedman's pretty choir of boys and girls, bids fair to outrival his previous efforts in that direction. A tantalizing snow scene occupied the back of the stage, and refreshments were served in canvas streets covered with snow. As the place was piping hot the people repaired periodically to those cool-looking streets in search of corpse-revivers and gum-ticklers. An intelligent foreigner was heard to ask why a summer entertainment should be decorated with a snow scene—but he was reassured on being told that this was a perfectly correct view of an English summer—sapristi!

CORRESPONDENCE.

"H. GLASS AND THE 'TIMES.'"

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—Anent the comment in your issue of Saturday in reference to the *Times* and its correspondent "H. Glass," of "Manchester," permit me to say that having searched in the proper channels I can find no mention of the existence of this gentleman. I cannot suppose it is a lady.—Yours obediently,

SYDNEY HALLIFAX.

Cavendish House, Victoria Park, Manchester.
August 13.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

Prince Ferdinand has now been twelve months on a throne which he had no right to occupy. It is time he was sent away. M. Stambuloff is a cautious man, but he ought to finish his plans before the end of this month, and have the throne clear for a candidate whose selection will not be a clear violation of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin. M. Stambuloff is the real ruler of Bulgaria, and now that he knows he can make his peace with Russia, we may expect to hear before long that the Coburger has departed. That he was ever allowed to enter Bulgaria is one of those incidents which reflect gravely upon the good faith of the master of Austria-Hungary.

According to Mr. Labouchere in *Truth*, Mr. Smith is to be "kicked upstairs" during the Recess. Lord Salisbury will make a great mistake if he allows this to happen. The leader in the House of Commons should either be the smartest man in the party or the most simple. It cannot be Lord Salisbury, therefore it had much better remain Mr. Smith. Mr. Goschen is too bitter. Mr. Chamberlain is too much disliked. Lord Randolph is too much distrusted. Mr. Balfour is still wanted in Ireland. Mr. Smith is not clever, nor shrewd, nor cynical. He cannot debate, nor contrive, nor impress. Indeed, as a parliamentary leader he is beneath criticism; but the advantage of him to the Tories is that that comes to the same thing as being above criticism.

Here is a summary, compiled by the *Standard's* correspondent on board the *Agincourt*, of the results of the manœuvres upon our cruisers—manœuvres in which not a shot has been fired in earnest, and the weather has not been worse than usual:—

> The *Mercury* and *Iris*, two of the oldest in the Navy, have done well. The *Amphion* and *Arethusa*, sister ships, come next in point of efficiency; the *Mersey*, *Thames*, and *Severn* have made good speed, but they have all developed defects which would render them useless as fast boats for at least some time. The *Grasshopper*, *Sandfly*, and *Rattlesnake* type of torpedo catchers are likely to be reported unseaworthy, except for smooth water service; the same may be said of the first-class torpedo boats. The *Archer*, *Racoon*, *Mohawk*, *Tartar*, *Serpent*, and *Cossack* have, without exception, utterly failed as fast scouts—the work for which they were designed. Owing to the giving out of new tubes they only make seven or eight knots, and must, when the operations are finished, go into dock and have their boilers re-tubed. The only vessel of which nothing amiss has yet been reported is the *Warspite*.

What would it be in war time may be imagined. If the enemy merely kept out of sight for a month, half our ships would be *hors de combat* before fighting began.

Lord Beauchamp, in his apology for the Keble College job in the *Daily News*, misses the point of the accusation. The question whether Keble ought or ought not to be exempted from the Mortmain Acts is a very arguable one, but the present point was not the merits of the case, but the manner in which Lord Beauchamp and his accomplices conducted it. It was a piece of sharp practice to snap a vote at the fag-end of the session in a "House of Lords" consisting of eighteen members, whereby the decision of the House of Commons was reversed. And it was a dirty trick of Ministers to assist in snapping that vote and then to pretend that they had nothing to do with it. The college of "high thinking" should be the last place to profit by such shady manœuvres.

Count Waldersee, the successor of Von Moltke, is chiefly notable outside military circles on account of his American wife. Lord Dufferin once remarked that the importation of American ladies as the wives of European diplomatists was one of the most subtle means by which the New World was subjugating the Old. There is hardly a diplomatic corps in any European capital which does not boast an American woman as one of its most notable ornaments. In German diplomacy General Schweinitz, the Ambassador at St. Petersburg, has an American wife; and the example of Count Waldersee and Lord Randolph Churchill show that the sphere of the lady from beyond the sea is by no means confined to diplomacy. Some day the Old World will have to put a heavy protective tariff on this import of American heiresses.

Even a high tariff, however, would fail to keep the American competitors out if they really possess all the virtues claimed for them by "the Wife of a Knickerbocker" in the *Daily Telegraph* to-day. Marriage, says this young lady, who has been just five years married, is much more of a failure in England than in the United States. And why? Because English wives don't know how to manage their husbands. How then do the Americans do it? Chiefly, according to this authority, by leaving each other alone. She says:—

> An English married woman in your upper classes as a rule catechises and cross-examines her luckless husband when he comes home, worn out, from the House of Commons, or from a racecourse, or from the city, and sooner or later he has recourse to evasions, or omissions, or subterfuges, from very weariness of her vexatious interrogatories. The happiness of English marriages has been wrecked by the husband insisting upon knowing everything that the wife has done or said, or thought since they last met, and by the wife being equally exacting. The fault of your husbands is that, when rich, they have not enough to do, and hang about their homes until their wives are tired to death of their very presence and companionship. No home can, in my opinion, be happy unless the husband is away from it every day for many hours. In the United States we have no idle men. Our wives, on the other hand, have time without end to dispose of, and their husbands think it the most natural thing in the world that these vacant hours should be filled up and spent as the wives please. In England the reins are rarely left untightened on a wife's neck, and she is often tempted to slip her muzzle. In America wives have no reins and no muzzles, and never seek to fix either on their husbands. Until Englishmen of the higher classes conform in this respect to our easy-going American ways there will be no surcease of divorces and matrimonial scandals among you.

This is all very fine, but somehow or other we never knew before that "divorces and matrimonial scandals" were unknown over the Atlantic.

It is one of the great scandals of English Protestantism, that while the public-house stands open all day long, week in and week out, the Church is only open a few hours one day in the week. The demand for spirituous nutriment is much more continuous than that for spiritual diet. We therefore heartily welcome Lord Carnarvon's appeal to the Primate in favour of opening churches every day, and are glad to see his grace's response. From a purely secular point of view it would be well if any weary man or woman could find a quiet resting-place in every parish elsewhere than in the public-house. As for the danger of theft, that surely is exaggerated. There is little to steal in a Protestant church compared with that which a thief may pick up in a Catholic church, but in Catholic countries the churches are open all day long often without any guardian, and no one commits sacrilege. But surely the London Protestants are as capable of providing keepers for their churches as their Catholic brethren.

The Archbishop's suggestion that "the interior of the church should be so ordered as to have some look of a home" is a capital but audacious suggestion. The church, said Voltaire, is the opera-house of the poor man, but it would be a brilliant idea to make it, if not the home of the homeless, then at least the common drawing-room of the stranger and the friendless. Old St. Paul's used to be the great assembly hall of the citizens of London, and any decent human use would be less of a sacrilege than keeping the buildings shut up all the week round. If a few organ recitals could be given at intervals throughout the day the churches might once more become familiar places of week-day resort.

What admirable material for a novel might be afforded by the "strange death of a Colonel," reported in to-day's papers. Here is the judicial account:—

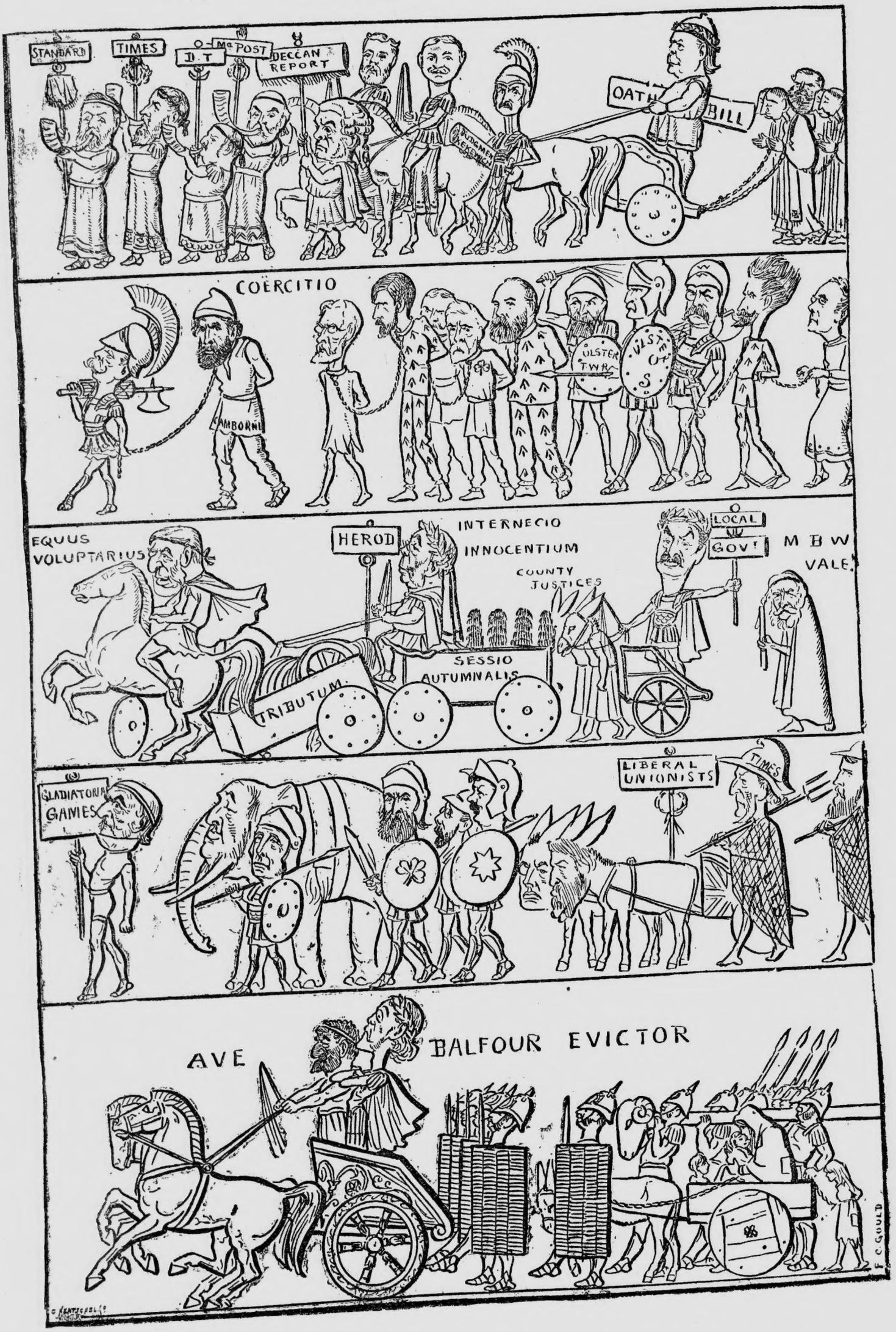
> The Colonel rose from his bed at two o'clock on Sunday morning, and rang the alarm bell. He provided himself with firearms, and threatened to kill any one who came near him. The butler managed to get him back to his room, but he afterwards got out of the window and fell 16 feet on the lawn.

The medical evidence "pointed," we are told, to softening of the brain, deceased having been for some time subject to delusions." That is the bare statement of recorded facts. But what the novelist could tell would be the nature of the "delusions," what effect they had on the life and surroundings of the Colonel and his family—what psychological basis there was for them, and how they wrought such havoc in the brain as to cause him to fight his battles o'er again and finally be drawn to his death by an irresistible impulse which so-called "science" is content to call a "cerebral delusion."

There is nothing new under the sun—not even, it seems, the express speed about which we have been hearing so much during the last few weeks. The "Flying Scotchman" made the journey to Edinburgh yesterday in 7 hours and 32 minutes, and the "Flying Nor'-Wester" in 7 hours and 58 minutes. But there was nothing in either run to beat the record given by Mr. A. D. Crake in to-day's *Times* of the Great Western's expresses forty years ago, when a speed of seventy-five miles an hour was often attained by the broad-gauge expresses. We are not sure, by the way, that some runs on the same line now would not—for certain short distances at any rate—beat the record of the Edinburgh racers.

Amongst the happy results of tricycling is the development of a sudden interest in the state of the roads. People somehow submit to have their carriage springs racked and their horses bothered with holes and ruts, but when it comes to having to propel a two or three wheeler over these gulfs oneself the question becomes urgent. An aggrieved correspondent writes that of all the abominable roads in London the Chelsea roads, including the Embankment, Eaton, and Belgrave squares, and their approaches, are the worst he knows. Where the wood pavement reigns in decent condition all is peace and smoothness, but elsewhere a very purgatory of jolts awaits the miserable tricyclist. Whose business is it to repair the roads in Chelsea, where the rates are proverbially high? Who examines the contractor's work? At present the only examiner seems to be the tricyclist, and he certainly will not be able to write down "examined and approved" for his contractor, for the roads have dislocated his limbs, warped his wheels, and smashed his springs.

THE TRIUMPHS OF THE SESSION.



"TO MEET EDISON."

"ELOQUENTEM SED NON PRÆSENTEM."

WHEN I arrived at Colonel Gouraud's pretty house at Upper Norwood yesterday afternoon I was in high spirits. I understood that I was about "to meet Edison." "Where is the great man?" I at once asked of my gallant and handsome host, who looked as gauoy as a butterfly in the striking "blazer" he was wearing when I caught him unawares. "Edison!" exclaimed he; "Edison! Why, Edison is at the other side of the Atlantic, I expect. Ah! yes, I see it all," he continued, with a melodramatic guffaw. "You hadn't seen 'eloquentem sed non præsentem.' My little Latin joke, 'Eloquent but not present.' Ha! ha!" It was in tiny type, and had escaped my eagle eye.

The occasion of this visit to "Little Menlo" was the arrival of a loud-voiced phonograph, who proved a most attractive and versatile person. He sang, he played, he laughed, he whistled, he told funny stories, he hammered, he barked, he cried, he made speeches, and proved himself a person of quite superior attainments. And the voice was the voice of Edison, loud as the deep baying of a chained watch dog, resonant, with a pronounced Yankee accent, a voice with a great sense of humour in it, the voice of a rough and ready man and the voice of a deaf man, who wished to rub-a-dub on your ear-drums. I can assure you that six inches of Edison's jokes and laughs on the cylinder properly conducted to your ear-drums by the little glass drops are no joke, sounding something like a thunderstorm among the mountains. You should hear him tell the story of the American man who went up to the gates of heaven, and asked to see Peter on particular business. "Well, my man, name and late residence," said Peter, with a strong Yankee twang. "A noospaper man, an editor from the city of Noo York," replied the visitor. "This way to the elevator," said Peter, and the "noospaper man" was shown into another room to wait his turn. He waited for half an hour, and being in "an almighty hurry" asked the man in charge how long he had to wait to go up. "Who air you?" asked the man. "A noospaper man from the city of New York." "Ho," said the man, with a low laugh, "*your* elevator goes down!" I am not quite sure about the end of Mr. Edison's story, as it was a little indistinct after the departure of Peter, but if he will send the correct version I shall be obliged. As this was the first appearance of the phonograph in public, I give the programme as a memento of the occasion:—

PROGRAMME.

1. The phonograph greeting of welcome to the London Press.
2. The phonograph's Salutation. A poem by the Rev. Hor. Nelson Powers.
3. Mrs. Edison's first phonogram to Col. Gouraud.
   Mrs. Edison's second phonogram to Col. Gouraud.
4. Recitation by Mr. Edison, "Fair Bingen on the Rhine."
5. Whistling, by Mr. Edison.
6. Song, by Mr. Edison.
7. Soliloquy, by Mr. Edison.
8. Various familiar sounds with introduction by Mr. Edison.
9. Whistling solos by La Belle Sifleuse (Mrs. Shaw, U.S.A.)
10. Observations by Mr. Edison on his first visit to England in the flesh.
11. Observations on travelling by Mr. Edison.
12. Observations on English climate by Mr. Edison.
13. Suggestive to Mr. Gladstone on tree felling by Mr. Edison.
14. Recitation from Shakspeare after the late John McCulloch.
15. Song, with piano accompaniment.

PIANO.

Waltz by Strauss.
Two Polkas by Strauss.
Waltz by Strauss.
Mazurka by Strauss.
A Piece from Mozart.
Singers' March from "Faust."
7th Regiment March.
Wedding March.
Blue Danube Waltz.
Funeral March by Chopin.
Song from "Faust."
The Friar.
A Drinking Song.
Cornet Solo.
Cornet and Piano Duet.
Mary had a Little Lamb.

Banjo, with song.

17. Presentation of guests to Mr. Edison through the phonograph.
18. Phonogram from Colonel Gouraud's guests to Mr Edison, to be forwarded to America,
19. Finale—
    "God save the Queen."
    "Star Spangled Banner," with variations.

Unfortunately the new instrument broke down during the early part of the afternoon owing to the hard knocks it had received on the voyage, but a portion of the programme was given with great success. A bell-shaped trumpet was fixed into the machine and the company was entertained by the deep tones of a mellow voice trolling out a famous song of Mr. Santley's, "The Friar." This was followed by a drinking song, which was also admirably rendered. The piano and cornet duet I listened to through the tubes and eardrops, and glad enough I was to pass them on, for the piano was a cracked and wheezy tin-kettle, and the cornet sounded like a mixture of an indifferent hurdy-gurdy and a tin whistle. I made the comparison to Mr. Hamilton, who resented it with some acrimony. "Do you know a cornet," he asked, "when you hear it?" "I believe so," I replied. "And do you mean to tell me that you couldn't single out the cornet from the piano?" "I will take a solemn oath that I cannot." Then he discovered that a wire had gone wrong. The machine was put under repair, and in an hour Mr. Edison's representative had put it right, and Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Harris put it to the test. I saw their heads wagging in harmony. Mr. Harris swayed this way, and Mrs. Harris that way, then they swayed together until I thought that there was some danger of a collision, and wondered what it was all about, for we could only hear a noise like Lieutenant Cole's elderly female dummy makes, or, if you are not familiar with that ancient lady, let us say that it resembled a cry as if a dwarf, with a tiny, tinny voice, was singing. But when I took the tube from the director-general of Italian opera in England I knew why he bobbed his head so smilingly. The music, if not exactly that of the spheres, was very pleasant, though a long course at such close quarters would require some training. When the instrument has recovered from the effects of the voyage, the music will be much sweeter, though the piano whose sound is repeated was, Mr. Hamilton says, only an old tin kettle in Edison's laboratory. As Mr. Hamilton, most patient and untiring of experimentalists, explained, the phonograms were only selected "just anyhow." The second phonograph was in splendid form, and gave admirable results. One of the most amusing and amazing was the repetition of familiar sounds, such as the striking of a hammer on an anvil, the rasping of a file, or a bit of sandpaper, the sound of a station bell, the cry of a railway porter. Mr. Edison was "eloquentem" if not "præsentem," and "addressed a few remarks" to the audience, which were as follows:—

THE PHONOGRAM'S GREETING TO THE LONDON PRESS.

Gentlemen,—In the name of Edison, to whose rare genius, incomparable patience, and indefatigable industry I owe my being, I greet you. I thank you for the honour you do me by your presence here to-day. My only regret is that my great master is not here to meet you in the flesh as he is in the voice. But in his absence I should be failing in my duty, as well as in my pleasure, did I not take this my first opportunity to thank you and all the press of the great City of London, both present and absent, for the generous and flattering reception with which my coming to the mother country has been heralded by you to the world.

Mrs. Shaw, the whistling lady, whistled some phonograms for Mr. Edison's edification, and a tune for ours. Colonel Gouraud sang "John Brown's Body" for him, indited a letter to him: Mr. Harris expressed his intention of running no more Italian operas, which he foresaw were doomed, but of purchasing a large quantity of phonographs, and giving phonograph operas, with phonograph prima donnas to interpret them. And so ended a most agreeable afternoon.

At Home and Abroad.

According to present arrangements, the Queen will leave Osborne on Tuesday next for Glasgow. The royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* is under orders to proceed to Scotland for her Majesty's use.

The Pope has struck a medal to be conferred on promoters of the jubilee celebrations. It is octagonal, the obverse bearing the Pope's effigy, and the reverse his arms.

The Catholic Convent of the Sacred Heart in New York, fronting the Hudson River below Riverside Park, was burned down on Monday night. All the inmates escaped uninjured. The loss is estimated at £80,000.

News from Tashkend states that a gang of thirty convicts who were being transported to Siberia made a desperate attempt to escape during the night. Most of the men had got a considerable distance when they were overtaken.

The volunteers at Aldershot took part yesterday in the work of the campaign against the invading force, and two brigades of them were distributed as outposts.

The concluding sitting of the Royal Commission on the Metropolitan Board of Works was held yesterday, Lord Herschell presiding, when further evidence was taken, and the Commission adjourned *sine die*.

Walter Joseph Embleton was convicted at the Lambeth police-court yesterday of cruelly beating his two young children, both girls, and was sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment.

The governor of Newgate has received a communication from the Home Secretary stating that Galletly, the Regent's Park murderer, has been reprieved. The execution had been fixed for Tuesday next.

The discussion of the Fisheries Treaty was continued in the American Senate yesterday. Mr. Morgan (Alabama) favoured its ratification, and said that he entertained very serious apprehensions regarding the result if the treaty were rejected.

The Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, have intimated their intention of enforcing distress warrants during the present week on farmers refusing to pay tithe. In the district of Meifod, Montgomeryshire, twenty-one farmers will be immediately distrained upon, and many more are in arrears.

The Emperor of Russia has received an address from the ex-Metropolitan of Servia and the Metropolitan of Montenegro, in which his Majesty was styled "The Hope and the Defender of Slavonism and the Orthodox World," the signatories adding that it was their desire that his enemies should be put to confusion, to the joy of mighty Russia and of the unprotected Slavs.

At a council of the family of Commandant Hériot, held yesterday at the Mairie of the Eighth Arrondissement, Madame Hériot and several other members of the family who were present declared M. Hériot to be in a state of decided mental aberration. The Mayor accordingly declared him to be no longer responsible for his actions.

Petitions have been presented to her Majesty in Council praying that charters may be granted to Bournemouth and to the Manor of Aston, in the county of Warwick; also by the council and governors of the University College of Wales at Aberystwith praying for the grant of a charter of incorporation to that college.

The receipts into the Exchequer between the 1st April and the 11th August were £28,792,733, against £28,762,019 in the corresponding period of last year. The expenditure was £33,002,360, against £32,824,975. The Bank balances last Saturday were £1,323,392, against £1,370,947 at the corresponding date in 1887.

Mr. Bowman, landlord of the Sovereign public-house, and Richard Ellis, his potman, yesterday appeared to adjourned summonses at the Bow-street police-court, charging them with ill-using a cat by pouring spirits of wine on its back and then setting fire to it. Sir James Ingham thought it an exaggerated charge. There was no torture, and he ordered the summons to be dismissed.

A carriage-cleaner named Westmitt, employed by the Great Western Railway, was last evening cut to pieces at Kensington (Addison-road) station. The deceased, who was about twenty-four years of age and unmarried, was crossing the line to attend to a train, when a Great Western train timed to reach Addison-road at 9.48 came along and knocked him down.

At Fort Rowner, Gosport, yesterday, while the police were removing in custody a private of the South Lancashire Regiment, the man's comrades set upon them with great violence, throwing stones and other missiles. When the prisoner was at last brought before the magistrates he was committed for six weeks, and Admiral Field, who delivered the sentence of the court, warned the soldiery of the danger of defying the civil authorities.

The Lord Mayor's fund for the relief of the distress occasioned by the floods in the Isle of Dogs and at Poplar now amounts to four thousand pounds. It is not possible yet to form an accurate estimate of the amount required, but it is expected that the original estimate of five thousand pounds need not be exceeded. That being the case, about one thousand pounds more will be wanted if full relief is to be given.

In London last week 2,228 births and 1,476 deaths were registered. Allowing for increase of population, the births were 454 and the deaths 203 below the average numbers in the corresponding weeks of the last ten years. The annual death-rate per thousand from all causes, which had been 15.9 in each of the two preceding weeks, rose last week to 18.0, and exceeded the rate recorded in any week since April last.

A largely attended meeting of Burnley cardroom hands was held last night, when a report was submitted of the interview which the operatives' representatives had had with the masters of Manchester during the afternoon. The meeting decided by an overwhelming majority to accept the masters' offer of 5 per cent. advance to males and females. The threatened strike both in North and in North-East Lancashire will now be averted.

Eugene Henry, a chemist's assistant, of Hither-green-lane, Lewisham, was yesterday, at the Greenwich police-court, fined £5 and costs for having sold eight grains, instead of five drops, of liquor strychnine to Malcolm Cowan, a medical student, in a bottle not labelled with the name and address of the seller. Mr. Cowan gave the poison, mixed with seidlitz power, inadvertently to Mr. Peter Brewster, a publican, of Courthill-road, Lewisham, and fatal consequences followed. There was sufficient poison, it was said, to kill twenty persons.

Dr. Dallinger, who is relinquishing the governorship of Wesley College, Sheffield, and will in future act as Wesleyan minister without pastoral charge, and be resident in London, was yesterday presented at Sheffield with a purse of £200, a silver salver being given to his wife. The presentation was made by the mayor, and letters eulogizing Dr. Dallinger were read from Archdeacon Blakeney, Canon Waldshaw (Roman Catholic), Sir F. Mappin, and many others.

THE STRIKE AGITATION IN FRANCE.

A DEPUTATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

The strikes in Paris continue. That of the navvies goes on quietly. The carpenters' strike is the work of about one hundred members of a body of 20,000. The men complain that all the ills from which they suffer arise from over-production, to put a stop to which they ask the main body of their brethren to insist on shorter hours and higher wages. The conditions they propose are nine hours' work at eightpence an hour, instead of forty pence for ten hours' work. Some slight disturbances took place yesterday through an attempt of the carpenters on strike to prevent some who refused to unite with them from working at a master joiner's in the Rue St. Denis. Four men were arrested. Their comrades then went to other workshops in the neighbourhood, but failed to get the men in them to strike.

M. Floquet received yesterday a deputation of the navvies and carters. They complained that the employers had not kept to the agreement entered into at the close of the strike of 1882, when they undertook to pay at the rate of 6*d.* an hour. The delegates then protested against police interference. M. Floquet said that nobody was more strongly against such interference than he was so long as violence was not resorted to by those on strike. Nobody had a right to stop any man from doing work that suited him, unless by argument or persuasion. He had ordered the police not to meddle unless force was resorted to. The delegates assured him that in nearly all cases where there was a disturbance the police began it. At this the Prime Minister expressed surprise, and said he would make further inquiries, and if the statements were borne out he would punish those policemen who had disobeyed orders.

COUNT VON MOLTKE'S SUCCESSOR.

SOME PARTICULARS OF HIS CAREER.

Count Waldersee, the new Chief of the General Staff, is a general of cavalry, quartermaster-general, and aide-de-camp-general to the Emperor. He was born in 1832, entered the army in 1850, and served for the first time on the General Staff during the war of 1866, in which he distinguished himself. At the close of the war with France in 1871 Count Waldersee, then a major, was rewarded with a colonelcy for the creditable and active part which he had taken in the great campaign. Since then his promotion has been rapid. In 1882 he was appointed quartermaster-general, and in this position he has acted as Deputy-Chief of the General Staff, and aide-de-camp-general to the Emperor. He is married to an American lady, whose maiden name was Lee, and who received the title of Princess Maria von Noër, as the morganatic consort of the late Prince Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg.

HOW THE FRENCH VIEW THE CHANGE.

It is with undisguised satisfaction (writes the *Standard* correspondent) that the French have greeted the announcement that one more of the four great men who created the Germany of to-day has disappeared from active life. Von Roon, the War Minister, went first; the Emperor William followed; and now Moltke has retired. Bismarck alone is left, and, as the *Liberté* says, "human infirmities, which are inexorable, will not spare him either—him whose loss will be far more keenly felt than that of Moltke, and the gap he will leave in the edifice will be much more irreparable."

FROM THE CAPTAIN OF THE BRIGANDS.

Among the correspondence connected with the "Bellova Affair" there is a letter addressed by the captain of the brigands to the Greek Consul at Tatar-Bazardjik, which runs thus:—"Of all the articles sent to us we have only received two rounds of cheese, five bottles of wine, 17½ okes of tobacco, two boxes of cigarette-papers, seven pieces of soap, three razors, fourteen combs, three pairs of garters, one turban, and one box of cosmetics. All the rest were stolen by the gendarmes. We agree to renounce our claim to the weapons on condition that their value is paid to us in money. At the same time, we request you to send us one embroidered Russian shirt, one topcoat, two pairs of trousers, one jacket, one Turkish waistcoat, three watches with chains, and seven okes of smoked bacon. We beg you also to send us with the above articles £T3,300. Coburg will make good the amount."

THE DE BEERS MINE CATASTROPHE.

According to further particulars of the De Beers catastrophe, to hand by the Cape mails, twenty-five white men and 178 natives were killed. Among the many who distinguished themselves by signal acts of bravery were two natives. One of them returned three times through the blinding smoke and carried out three Europeans who had become insensible, some six hundred feet to places of safety, through narrow passages blocked with dead. The other, a Zulu, carried his master under similar circumstances to a safe place at a higher level. Both men are to receive medals and rewards. The recovery of bodies is proceeding slowly. The Government Commission to inquire into the disaster is sitting with closed doors.

GREAT MARITIME DISPLAY AT ANTWERP.

The maritime fête at Antwerp last night equalled in splendour the Venetian celebrations of olden times. At the banquet in the town hall the Ministers and Mr. Grattan, the English Consul-General, were among those present. There was a general illumination, with fireworks, while cannon boomed from the fort, and the chimes of the cathedral sounded incessantly. The river was covered with illuminated vessels, and an allegorical procession took place comprising twenty-one groups of ships. The most noteworthy were the craft representing the commerce of Antwerp, Chinese and Egyptian vessels, and a floating-house of Borneo. An innumerable multitude witnessed the display.

YELLOW FEVER PANIC IN FLORIDA.

A panic exists in Jacksonville, Florida, owing to the spread of yellow fever. Refugees crowd all the routes to the north, but a rigid quarantine is enforced everywhere, and there is a general use of disinfectants. In Jacksonville on Monday night the concussion theory for destroying fever germs was tested. Five cannon were fired continuously for several hours. Large bonfires, with mixtures of pitch and sulphur, are maintained in the infected districts. The people of St. Augustine and other towns in Florida are alarmed, though no fever has appeared among them.

HATCHARDS, BOOKSELLERS, 187, PICCADILLY, W. All the New and Standard Books. Discount 3*d.* in the shilling. Post orders promptly executed.

ITALY'S REBUFF IN THE DARK CONTINENT.

WHAT IS THOUGHT AT ROME ABOUT IT.

The report of the disaster at Saganeiti has created a very painful impression on the public mind. The semi-official newspapers naturally seek to minimize the importance of the event, pointing out that as the defeated force consisted exclusively of Bashi-Bazouks no discredit attaches to the Italian arms. They agree in thinking, however, that General Baldissera acted very imprudently, and evidently exceeded his instructions. The Independent, Radical, and Clerical journals take a more serious view of the disaster, and do not absolve the Government from responsibility in the matter. It is certain, says a Rome correspondent, that this further reverse has strengthened public opinion in favour of the evacuation.

THE QUEEN OF SERVIA IN PARIS.

The Paris correspondent of the *Chronicle* writes:—The journey of Queen Nathalie of Servia to Versailles and her stay in the quiet Royal city seem to have been arranged rather hastily. Her Majesty left the Hague after having received a letter from M. Pirotchanatz, her legal adviser, who will be at Versailles to-morrow. Although the Queen declines to receive even intimate friends and well-wishers, I have reason to believe that she is desirous of some arrangement by which she can once more have her son with her. For this she would be prepared to make almost any concession. Last night her Majesty was very agitated, and a prescription, of which chloral was one of the component parts, was sent for. The apartments of the Queen at the Hôtel des Reservoirs are regal looking but simple. There are five rooms, one of which is occupied by the Princess Ghika. The hotel was formerly the Prefecture, and bears the impress of former days upon its palatial walls and Louis XVI. furniture. The Queen reads religious books and English novels. With the exception of Balzac she professes her contempt for modern French literature, although she is very fond of the French people and very grateful to them for their sympathy.

ENGLISH TRADE WITH SIBERIA.

Mr. Sylvan's steamer the *Labrador*, with English merchandise of all kinds on board, has arrived at the mouth of the Jenisei river, in Siberia, after a most successful voyage through the Polar Sea. The cargo was landed by the small steamer *Phœnix*, which arrived on the Jenisei last year, and also belongs to Mr. Sylvan. It is asserted that the Russian Government will allow him to import English goods duty free into Siberia by steamer for five years.

MR. GLADSTONE ON MR. DILLON'S IMPRISONMENT.

At a meeting held at Dalkeith last evening, under the auspices of the Dalkeith Liberal Association, Provost Gray, who presided, read the following letter from Mr. Gladstone:—

Hawarden Castle, August 12.

Dear Mr. Provost,—I am very glad that my constituents in Dalkeith are about to hold a meeting on the subject of Mr. Dillon's imprisonment, following herein the good example set by the people of Edinburgh. If Mr. Dillon broke the law, he was driven to break it by the gross misconduct of the Government and the Parliament of 1866, who obstinately refused to make any provision for the undoubted incapacity of many of the Irish tenants to pay their rents, and thereby forced into existence the Plan of Campaign, which they afterwards made an excuse for the cruel coercion now in force. They demonstrated their own misconduct without confessing it when in 1887 they did imperfectly, and too late, what they had refused to do in 1886. I shall never speak of any breach of the law as otherwise than a public evil, but the true authors of this evil are the Government and the Parliament. While Mr. Dillon has to bear the consequences, the Government and the Parliament are more responsible; but the responsibility will pass over to and rest upon the voters of this country if they approve such conduct at a bye-election or otherwise, and on every one among them who votes for them calling themselves Unionists.—I am, &c.,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

DR. MOORHEAD'S EVIDENCE AT THE RIDLEY INQUEST.

At the resumed inquest on Dr. Ridley yesterday, Captain Featherstonhaugh, the governor of Tullamore Gaol, stated that the gatekeeper entered Dr. Barr in the visitors' book as an unknown person. Witness was in no way influenced in enforcing prison discipline by Dr. Barr's visits.—Dr. Moorhead deposed to visiting Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Mandeville. He urged O'Brien's removal to the hospital, believing it necessary. Dr. MacCabe, of the Prisons Board, who was visiting Tullamore, had declined witness's application to medically examine O'Brien, and commented strongly on witness's conduct towards the deceased as a breach of professional etiquette. Witness had replied that he had no desire to injure Dr. Ridley. He had made his reports out of a strong sense of duty. The governor not only did not facilitate witness's visits to the gaol, but appeared to resent them. Witness was on very friendly terms with Dr. Ridley, and had constant consultations with him during March, April, and June. While making the reports in question, witness neglected his own practice and incurred his friends' displeasure. He was candidate for the post of medical officer at Tullamore workhouse, and joined the National League for the purpose of getting the appointment, which he could not otherwise do. Witness believed Ridley was not of his own free agency guilty of wanton severity to prisoners. On the close of Dr. Moorhead's evidence the inquiry was adjourned.

AN UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE.

The Rev. John Smith, of Templetree, Ireland, had a narrow escape from drowning at Tenby yesterday. He entered the water from the rocks near the Esplanade, and, swimming some distance out, was caught in a current and drawn seawards. A boat from the harbour went in search of him nearly three hours later, and about eleven o'clock found him on the rocks under Giltar Head some two miles distant. He was much bruised from being beaten against the rocks, and was taken back to Tenby in an exhausted state.

A BURGLAR SHOT AT WOOLWICH.

Early yesterday morning John Matthews, in the employ of Mr. Enos Read, Monks Farm, East Wickham, a lonely farmhouse between Woolwich and Bexley Heath, was about starting with a load of fruit for the London market when he noticed a light in the sitting-room of the house. Thinking something wrong, he tapped at the door with his whip, and the light immediately went out. He then called up his master, saying, "Some one is in the house; you had better bring your gun down with you." Mr. Read went down with a six-chambered revolver and a light, and asked "Who's there?" Then he said, "If you don't tell me who you are and what you are doing here I shall shoot you." Still there was no reply. Mr. Read then fired and the burglar fell on the floor exclaiming, "You have shot me. Don't fire again." Police-constable Bentham, 442 R, found the man still on the floor, shot in the thigh and unable to stand. He made no statement. He was taken to the Woolwich Infirmary.

FOURTH EDITION.

THE PARNELL COMMISSION.

FIRST MEETING OF THE THREE JUDGES TO-DAY.

WHEN THE PROCEEDINGS WILL BEGIN.

The three judges, Sir James Hannen, Mr. Justice Day, and Mr. Justice Smith, met this morning at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, and decided that the inquiry should commence on October 16, when the proceedings of the Commission will be opened.

It was further decided to fix the September 17 as the date before which all intermediary applications must be made by the parties concerned in the inquiry.

Notice to this effect was served to-day on Messrs. Lewis and Lewis—who represent Mr. Parnell and the whole of the Irish party—and on Mr. Soames, who is acting for the *Times*.

THE THREE JUDGES.

MR. JUSTICE HANNEN.

MR. JUSTICE DAY.

MR. JUSTICE SMITH.

EXECUTION AT CHELMSFORD TO-DAY.

George Sargeant was executed at Chelmsford this morning for murdering his wife at Wakes Colne on July 17. Berry was the executioner, and allowed a drop of 5 ft. 6 in. Sargeant walked firmly to the scaffold, and died very bravely. He struggled slightly a few seconds after the drop fell. Death resulted from dislocation of the neck. Before the execution he shook hands with Berry and the warders, and said he had no statement to make.

THE EMPRESS VICTORIA'S VISIT TO ENGLAND.

According to *Truth* the Empress Victoria leaves Potsdam the first week in September, accompanied by her three younger daughters, and by Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia. The Empress will reside at Abergeldie Castle for nearly two months. The arrangements for the journey are not yet settled, but, in all probability, the party will embark at Flushing for Port Victoria, and stop for a night at Buckingham Palace before proceeding to Scotland. The alternative plan is to go by sea direct to Aberdeen, and the Queen will send the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* to convey the party to this country, unless the Empress prefers to come over in the Prussian Imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*, which the Emperor William has offered to lend her.

SIR M. MACKENZIE AND THE GERMAN DOCTORS.

Sir Morell Mackenzie's reply to the German doctors, will, it is said, be issued in the course of a few weeks, simultaneously in German and English, and in nearly every European language. The English publishers have also completed arrangements for the American issue. Proof sheets of every page will pass under the eyes of her Majesty before going to press. The work will contain facsimiles of the late Emperor's handwriting, and other sketches, and will form not merely a personal defence of Sir Morell against the personal attacks made upon him, but it will contain an historical account of his long-continued daily intercourse with the Emperor.

Many of the correspondents who are with the manœuvring squadrons are, it is said, anything but satisfied with their treatment by the officials, and one or two have threatened to be recalled.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

THE BATTENBERG MARRIAGE PROJECT.

MDME. ADAM ANNOUNCES FURTHER REVELATIONS.

PARIS, August 15.—Mdme. Adam, in the last number of the *Nouvelle Revue*, affirms the authenticity of the alleged secret report of Prince Bismarck to the late Emperor Frederick upon the Battenberg marriage project which was recently published by the *Revue*. Mdme. Adam also announces further revelations on the subject.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

CALAIS, August 15.—The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived here at midnight. Their Royal Highnesses left immediately by train for Cologne.

GENERAL BOULANGER.

PARIS, August 15.—General Boulanger left this morning for Amiens, accompanied by Count Dillon and M. de Susini. Cries of "Vive Boulanger!" were raised by some of the railway employés as the train was leaving the station.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

ST. PETERSBURG, August 15.—The semi-official *Journal de St. Pétersbourg*, in an article to-day commenting on the pacific character of Lord Salisbury's Mansion House speech, and the British Premier's evident desire to give prominence to the satisfaction and confidence inspired in London by the Peterhof meeting, says:—"In view of these favourable tendencies we shall pass over certain assertions which Lord Salisbury would not accept were they to be otherwise applied. The essential point is to see the British Cabinet so distinctly share the hopes of peace arising from the Peterhof meeting and so completely responding to the wishes of the Russian nation."

THE KING OF PORTUGAL.

BERLIN, August 15.—The King of Portugal left here at eight o'clock this morning for Prague, viâ Dresden. The Emperor William accompanied his Majesty to the railway station, where he bade him a hearty farewell.

MORE FIGHTING IN ZULULAND.

A telegram from Pietermaritzburg of yesterday's date says:—A British detachment numbering 400 men, while on its way from N'Konjeni to Iouma met on the 10th inst. a party of rebels. An engagement ensued, in which the enemy lost twelve killed and sixteen wounded, as well as 400 head of cattle. The British loss is not stated.

BREAKDOWN OF OUR FLAGSHIP ON THE CHINA STATION.

Letters from Yokohama show that grave defects have been discovered in the *Impérieuse*, which recently arrived on the China station to take the place of the *Audacious* as flagship of the squadron. The ends of the tubes belonging to the surface condensers have been found to be more or less seriously corroded and destroyed where they pass through the tube plates. The fitting of the surface condensers with an entire set of new tubes can only be accomplished after a new set, consisting of 10,500 just ordered by telegram from England, has been received. In the meantime, the machinery of the *Impérieuse* is practically useless except for a vessel with old-fashioned condensers, and with a considerable diminution of speed.

THE SHOOTING AT SHOEBURYNESS.

The repository competition has been won by the 2nd Essex with 94 marks, the second place taken by the 2nd Middlesex with 92 marks. The 3rd Kent and 3rd Middlesex tie for the third place with 91 marks. The fourth place goes to the 1st Sussex for 90 marks.

The weather is dull this morning, but the light is good, and there is no wind to speak of. The competition to-day is with the 40-pounder Armstrong, the same arm as yesterday, but the range is at 2,000 yards, as against 1,600 yards yesterday.

THE VOLUNTEERS AND CANNOCK CHASE.

There is to be a meeting at Stafford House on Saturday next to consider the desirability of establishing a "new Wimbledon" at Cannock Chase, and providing permanent ranges there for the future annual shooting competitions of the National Rifle Association. Circulars have been issued by a central organization inviting those volunteer officers who can do so to attend the meeting, and those who cannot attend to fill up the return containing a long series of questions as to whether the Cannock Chase site would be suitable for the volunteers of the districts they represent, and inviting any suggestions which may be made on the subject generally.

TEMPESTUOUS VOYAGE OF A LONDON SHIP.

Information just received from Melbourne, Australia, reports the arrival there of the ship *Oronsay*, from London, after encountering very boisterous weather during the voyage. On the 28th March a heavy gale prevailed, during which the vessel was nearly swamped. The seas swept the decks with terrific force, smashing the bulwarks and deck fittings, bursting in the front part of the after-deck-house and inundating the cabin. The binnacle was also washed overboard from the poop. The third officer, named Collier, had a narrow escape from death, and had his right leg broken above and below the knee. The gale lasted three days. Oil bags were used with good effect. The injured officer was landed at Madeira. On May 27 another heavy gale was experienced. The greater portion of the bulwarks were swept away, and the decks were flooded. The ship's boats were seriously damaged. Oil was again resorted to, and had the effect of somewhat calming the heavy seas. The *Oronsay* is a sailing ship of 1,569 tons register, and is owned in London.

THE ANGLO-DANISH EXHIBITION TO BE CLOSED.

The Anglo-Danish Exhibition will have to close at the end of next week. It was announced that the Exhibition, as all other exhibitions have done, would remain open until the end of October; but it appears (says a London correspondent of the *Liverpool Post*) that the Prince of Wales's pet scheme, the Imperial Institute, requires the main approach to the building in order to make the Institute-road, and consequently the Exhibition must be closed. It seems somewhat ungracious to take this step, seeing that the Exhibition has been promoted in connection with the Silver Wedding and for the benefit of an institution which was the first to receive the Princess of Wales's patronage after her arrival in England

MR. PARNELL'S ACTION AGAINST THE "TIMES."

DIFFICULTIES IN THE WAY.

An Edinburgh correspondent writes :—"Inquiries in authoritative legal circles in Edinburgh tend to show that there is not the slightest chance of Mr. Parnell's action against the *Times* commencing before a Scotch jury before January, and that the *Times* can easily delay the proceedings until a month later."

The London correspondent of the *Dublin Express* (who is an authority on this matter) believes the *Times* will use every legitimate means to delay or defeat the Scotch action, "which of course is a mere dodge on Mr. Parnell's part." "It will be found," he says, "that Mr. Parnell's legal advisers, assuming that the action is *bonâ fide*, have made a rather serious mistake. According to Scotch law an action does not lie in that country unless either of the parties resides in Scotland or has property in it. No doubt the learned gentlemen who have been advising Mr. Parnell will be surprised to hear that the *Times* has not one pennyworth of property in Scotland, and the newsagents must have smiled when the arrestments were served upon them. The style in which the *Times* does its business with its agents is rather peculiar, but it certainly has the merit of safety. The agent sends to London at the beginning of each month a requisition for a certain number of each day's issue of the paper, but no one copy of the paper is forwarded unless the agent pays for it in advance ; the result is that although the *Times* frequently has money in its possession belonging to the agents, the agents never by any chance have in their possession the money of the *Times*. This strange feature appears never to have been suspected by the legal advisers of Mr. Parnell, and it will come one of these days upon them by surprise. It appears the agents accepted the arrestments without a murmur, as well they might."

The London correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal* says it is now well understood that the *Times* will do everything in its power to procure the postponement of Mr. Parnell's action in Scotland until the Special Commission has concluded its investigations. A trial by jury and not a trial by Commission is what the *Times* has clamoured for daily for two years.

THE GREAT MATCH AT THE OVAL.

At Kennington Oval yesterday, England took ample revenge for the defeat sustained at Lord's last month, the second of the series of three representative matches between the picked eleven of England and the sixth Australian team ending in a decisive victory for the Old Country by an innings and 137 runs. Charming weather favoured the match on both days. The wet season has had one good effect, it has kept the grass beautifully green, and the big ring being thickly crowded from eleven o'clock in the morning, the cricketers, when they took the field shortly after half-past eleven, found their efforts watched by many thousands of people. As the day wore on, the attendance grew and grew until it exceeded that on Monday, and after luncheon fully 17,000 spectators were on the ground. In all 16,207 people paid for admission to the ground, making, with those who passed through the turnstiles on Monday, a gross total of 30,957 persons who paid a shilling to see the match. Thus a sum of £1,547 17*s.* remains for division between the Australians and the Surrey Club.

The match occupied during the two days as nearly as possible nine hours and a quarter, the two innings of the Australians lasting two hours and a half and two hours and a quarter respectively, while the one innings of the Englishmen extended over four hours and a half. So in fifteen minutes less than the Colonials were making 180 runs the home team scored 317, getting their runs at the rate of 70 an hour, whereas the Australians could not average 38 an hour. These figures tell a tale which can only be explained by the fact that either the Australian bowling was much weaker than that of England, or that the English batsmen showed greater ability than their opponents.

W. G. Grace deserves a special word of congratulation upon the excellent manner in which he captained the side. He placed his field admirably, and made what few changes of bowling were necessary with great judgment. It only remains to be said that ten matches have now been played between England and Australia, England scoring six wins and Australia two, while two of the fixtures in 1884 were left drawn.

Full score and analysis :—

AUSTRALIANS.—First Innings.

M'Donnell, c Lohmann, b Peel	0	Blackham, b Briggs	0
Trott, b Briggs	13	Worrall, c Grace, b Barnes	8
Bonnor, b Briggs	0	Edwards; b Lohmann	26
Bannerman, c Lohmann, b Barnes	13	Ferris, not out	13
Jarvis, b Briggs	5	Extras	2
Woods, run out	0	Total	80
Turner, b Briggs	0		

AUSTRALIANS—Second innings.

M'Donnell, b Peel	32	Jarvis, b Peel	8
Trott, b Peel	4	Blackham, c Lohmann, b Barnes	4
Bonnor, c Wood, b Barnes	5	Turner, b Peel	18
Edwards, c Read, b Barnes	0	Worral, not out	0
Ferris, run out	16	Extras	1
Banneman, b Barnes	5	Total	100
Woods, c Abel, b Barnes	7		

ALL ENGLAND.—First Innings.

Grace, c Edwards, b Turner	1	Briggs, b Woods	0
Ulyett, c Blackham, b Turner	0	Peel, b Woods	25
Shuter, b Turner	23	Lohmann, not out	62
W. W. Read, b Turner	18	Wood, c Bannerman, b Ferris	8
Barnes, c Worrall, b Turner	62	Extras	12
Abel, run out	70	Total	317
Sugg, b Turner	31		

BOWLING ANALYSIS.—Australians, First Innings.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
Lohmann	29.3	21	21	1
Peel	8	4	14	1
Briggs	37	24	25	5
Barnes	16	9	18	2

SECOND INNINGS.

Lohmann	6	4	11	0
Briggs	6	3	7	0
Barnes	29	16	32	5
Peel	28.2	13	49	4

BOWLING ANALYSIS.—England, First Innings.

	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.
Turner	60	24	112	6
Ferris	35.2	15	73	1
Trott	7	2	25	0
Woods	32	10	80	2
Worrall	4	1	15	0

Turner bowled two wides.

THERMOMETER. FORECAST ISSUED AT 11 A.M. TO-DAY. BAROMETER.

South England (with London and Channel).—Easterly winds, moderate ; cloudy, rain locally.

Yesterday Noon to-day

Yesterday Noon to-day

SUN Rises 4h. 48 m. Sets 7 h. 21 m.
MOON—Full M. 0 21st, 4 h. 20m. Aft.

HIGH WATER London Bridge. Morn. 7 h. 9m. After. 7 h. 37 m.

WEATHER AT NOON TO-DAY, August 15, 1888.—Cloudy to fair and fresh.

Readings by NEGRETTI and ZAMBRA'S *Instrum*

THIS DAY'S MONEY MARKET.

Half-past One.

HOME RAILWAYS WEAK.—FOREIGN STOCKS QUIET.—AMERICANS DEPRESSED.

In the Money Market this morning there is again a slightly easier tendency, owing to the expectation that no gold will be withdrawn from the Bank of England for South America this week, and the probability that much of the inquiry for that quarter will be met on the Continent. Should this turn out to be the case, however, the position here is not assured enough to allow of any great falling away in the value of money. Short loans are being offered at 1½ per cent., while the discount rate for three months' bank paper is easy at 2¾ per cent., short bills being taken at 2⅝ per cent.

The principal speculative attention on the Stock Exchange this morning is centred in the department for American Railways, and in other directions markets are inactive and featureless. Consols are again neglected, and in the Home Railway Market the variations are slight. The tone in the latter department, however, is unfavourable, and the majority of the changes are to lower quotations, the chief weakness being in the Deferred stocks of the Southern lines and District. Foreign Government Bonds are steady, with rather a tendency to weakness in Hungarian and Russian after yesterday's improvement. Mexican Converted Bonds are a trifle better. American Railroad securities were weak in New York yesterday, owing to unfavourable reports regarding the crops and the absence of operations for the rise, and markets here have responded, showing a general decline in prices. Louisville and Nashville shares are especially flat. Grand Trunk stocks have given way, in sympathy with American, but Mexican Railway issues are practically unchanged. Brewery shares are firm, but mining descriptions are neglected.

The Stock Market at New York yesterday opened steady at slight declines from yesterday's closing prices. The tone became heavy after the first few minutes, and under the lead of Quincey, which were very weak, the entire list declined. When the bear operators discovered that the market had been left unsupported they made a general raid, causing sharp declines throughout. The closing was weak at nearly the lowest figures of the day. The expectation of trouble arising from the action of the St. Paul and Duluth Railway in respect to their rates, and also renewed reports of damage to the crops in Iowa and Dakota, affected Granger stocks, while Southern stocks were influenced by the reports of yellow fever in Florida.

The following are the latest changes compared with yesterday's closing :—

In Home Railways.—*Improved* : North British ¼, and North Eastern ⅛. *Lower* : Great Northern Deferred, Brighton Deferred, and District ½, Sheffield Deferred and South Eastern Deferred ¼, Caledonian and Chatham Ordinary ⅛.

Among Foreign Stocks.—*Advanced* : Mexican Converted ⅛. *Declined* : Egyptian Preference, Hungarian Gold, and Uruguay Bonds ⅛.

American Railroads.—*Fallen* : Louisville and Nashville 1½, Norfolk and Western Preference 1⅛, Denver Mortgage 1, the Preference ⅜, Lake Shore ⅞, Northern Pacific Preference ⅞, Central Pacific, Milwaukee and St. Paul, Missouri, Kansas, and Texas, Ohio and Mississippi Ordinary, and Union Pacific ¾, Denver Preference ¾, the Ordinary ¼, Illinois Central, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage and Philadelphia and Reading shares ½, Erie shares ½, the Second Mortgage ¼, New York Central and Ontario shares and Mexican Central Bonds ¼, and Pennsylvania shares ⅛.

As regards Canadian and Foreign Railways.—*Lower* ; Grand Trunk First Preference ⅝, the Guaranteed ½, the Second Preference ⅜, the Third Preference ¼, the Ordinary 1-16. Canadian Pacific ⅜, and Mexican First Preference ⅛.

Guinness Ordinary Stock is up 1¼, Allsopp shares, and Hotchkiss ⅛, and Rio Tinto 1-16 ; but Spratts shares are down ⅛.

The half-yearly balance-sheet of Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co. show a liability on current accounts of £11,284,485, against £9,064,833 a year previously. The deposits amount to £2,958,511, against £2,030,439, and the acceptances to £1,874,933, against £1,424,898, The cash in hand at the Bank of England is stated at £1,379,298, against £1,704,852 ; the money at call at £3,752,500, against £2,490,000 ; the investments at £2,957,687, against £2,645,562 ; and the bills discounted £7,553,511, against £5,654,858. The Consols included in the investments are taken on this occasion at 92, against 94 a year ago.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The market opened quiet, with a fair demand. Probable sales 7,000. Prices on the spot are easy. Futures are one to two points down.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares :—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.			Brighton(Ordinary)	140	2	London and County	84½	5½xd
Consols	100⅜	⅜	Do. A	124½	½	Union of London	38½	9½
New Consols 2¼	99¼	⅜	Chatham(Ordinary)	22¼	¾	London and West.	66	7
Reduced 3 p. c.	100¾	1½	Do. Preference	101½	¾xd	London Joint Stock	38½	9½
LocalLoan Stock	103⅛	¾	North Western	170⅛	⅞	Nat. Prov. of Eng	43	4
New 2½ per. Cent.	95¼	6¼	South Western	136	7 xd	Stand. Bnk. S. Afric.	47½	8½
India 3½ per Cent.	105⅜	6¼	Manchester & Shef.	68	70	MINES.		
Do. 4½ p. c. Rus.	69¼	70	Do. A.	36⅛	⅜	Indian Consolidated	¾	⅞
Egyptian Guar.	102	½	Met. Consolidated	73½	4 xd	Mysore shares	3	⅛
Met. Bd. Wks. 5½	113	½	Do. Land Stock	70	1 xd	Ooregums	1¼	¼
Do. 3 p. c. Scrip.	103½	4	Do. District	33½	4	Cape Copper	3¼	4
BirminghamCrp.Stk.	109¼	10¼	Midland	132⅞	3⅛	Namaqua	2⅞	3⅛
Liverpool	111¼	¾	North British	114⅜	⅝	Mason and Barry	9⅜	⅛
FOREIGN STOCKS.			North Eastern	158¼	½	Rio Tinto	20¼	1⅛
Argentine 6 p. c.	103	5	North Stafford	111	13	Montana £1 shares	1⅜	¼
Do. Hard Dols	69¼	¾xd	South Eastern	131	3	De Beers	26¼	½
Do. Treasury	98	9	Do. Deferred	105⅞	6⅛	Kimberley Cent.	30½	1
Austrian Gold	90	2	FOREIGN RAILWAYS.			TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES		
Do. Silver	66	8	Canada Pacific	58⅞	9⅛	Anglo-American	40½	1½
Brazilian 1875	102⅛	3½	Cen. Pacific Shares	35	½	Do. Pref.	67½	8½
B. Ayres 6 p. c.	102	4	Chic. Mil. and St. P.	73¼	4	Direct Unit. States	9⅛	⅛
Do. Cedulas	61¼	2¼xd	Denver & R. Grande	19½	⅜	Eastern	12¼	¼
Chilian 4½ p.c.1885	100	2	Do. Pref.	50¼	1	Ditto Extension	12⅞	13⅛
Costa Rica A	89	90	Illinois Shares	122½	3½xd	United Telephone	13½	⅛
Do. B	87½	8½	Lake Shore	98	¼	Globe Teleg. Trust	6⅛	⅛xd
Egypt. State Dom.	101½	2	Ohio & Mississippi	23	½	TRAMWAYS, ETC.		
Do. Unified	84 11-16	13-16	Louis. and Nash	60	¼xd	London Gen. Om.	205	10
Do. Preference	102½	¾	Mex. Cen. Bonds	60	½	London Street	13	14
Do. Daira Sanien	79½	¾	Do. Nat "A"	6¼	5	London Tramway	14	15
French 3 p.c. Rnts	82½	3	Miss. Kan. & Texas	14⅛	¼	North Metropolitan	18	½xd
Do. 4½p.c. Rnts.	105	½	N. Y. Cen. Shares	109¾	10¼	WATERWORKS.		
Greek 5 p.c. 1881	73¼	4	New York Ontario	16⅜	⅛	Chelsea Waterworks	252	7
Hung. Gold Rentes	82¼	3	Erie Shares	28⅛	⅜	East London	196	201
Italian	95½	¾	Do. Sec. Mort	100½	1	Grand Junction	123	8
Mexican Converted	39⅞	⅛	Norfolk & West. Pre	50¼	1	Kent	267	72 xd
Peruvian 5 p.c. 72	13 15 16	14 1 16	N. Y. P. & O. 1st Mr	38	¼	Lambeth	257	62
Do. 6 p.c.	15¼	½	North. Pacific Pref	58	¼	New River, New	347	52
Portuguese	64⅛	⅝	Pennsylvania Sh.	55⅜	⅛	S'thwrk. & Vauxhall	161	6
Russian 1873	98⅛	⅝	Phil. and Read. Sh	25⅛	⅛ & ass	W. Middlesex	264	9
Spanish 4 p. c.	73⅞	¼	Union Pacific Shares	61⅛	⅜	GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT.		
Turkish 1854	99	101	Wabash Preferred	27	¼	Gaslight & Coke A	254	3
Group 1	24¼	¾	Do. Gen. Mort.	44½	5	Imp. Continental	205	8
Group 2	15	¼	Grand Trunk Sh.	9⅞	13⅛	South Metropolitan	315	20
Groups 3 and 4	24⅜	⅞	Do. First Pref.	58⅛	⅜	Brush Elec. Lt. (£4 pd)	3	½
4½ p. c. 1871	86½	7	Do. Second Pref.	40½	¾	MISCELLANEOUS.		
5 p. c. Defence	96½	7	Do. Third Pref.	22⅛	⅞	Allsopp	8¼	9 xd
5 p. c. Priority	82	4	Do. Guaranteed	66¼	¾	Guinness and Co.	320	5
Uruguay Unified	72¾	3	Mexican Ordinary	47⅛	⅝	Hotchkiss	9¼	½xd
Virginia Funded	43½	4½	Do First Pref	120¼	½	Bryant and May	12½	13 xd
U.S. 4½ p.c.	107½	8½	Ob. do. 2nd Pref	79½	80	Spratt's Patent	9⅛	10 xd
BRITISH RAILWAYS.			Lombardo-Venetian	8½	⅛	P. and O. Steam	62	4
Caledonian	105¼	½	Varna 3 per cent	6¼	7	Royal Mail Steam	59	61
Great Eastern	68	¼xd	Nitrate Railway	25⅜	6	Nat. Discount Co.	11	½
Great Northern	113½	19⅛	BANKS.			Hudson's Bay	19⅛	⅝
Ditto A	101½	2⅛	Alliance Bank	13¼	¾	Suez Canal	86¼	7⅛
Great Western	144¾	5⅛xd	City Bank	20	1	E. & W. Ind. Dock	25	6
Hull and Barnsley	3¼	¼	Consolidated Bank	7¼	8¼	London and St. Katharin	39	42
Lanc. and York	118	19	Imperial Ottoman	10 13 15	15 16			

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS AND THE CODE.

SUGGESTIONS AS TO LEGISLATION.

A petition has been presented to Parliament from the executive committee of the National Union of Elementary Teachers, in which satisfaction is expressed that the members of the Royal Commission on Education, in their recent report, condemn the system of payment by results, and propose that it should be greatly modified. On the subject of compulsory attendance the petitioners are not in agreement with the conclusion arrived at by the majority of the commission, and they earnestly pray that, so long as compulsory attendance at school is practically a dead letter, teachers should not continue to be professionally punished for the non-progress of irregular scholars. In conclusion, they suggest legislation in the following directions :—

1. That the system of payment by results should be abolished, as injurious to education and incapable of being adapted to it. 2. That the Education Department should be assisted by a consultative council in preparing any modifications of the existing system and any future alterations of the Code, and that teachers should be adequately represented on such council. 3. That the teachers should be allowed full liberty to classify their scholars according to their attainments and abilities, and to use the most intelligent methods of teaching. 4. That the inspection of schools should be conducted by persons who possess a knowledge of the theory and practice of education, and have had adequate practical experience of the work of teaching in elementary schools. 5. That the work of the local authorities charged with the duty of enforcing attendance at school should be made effective. 6. That the duty of granting certificates to teachers should be vested in a council, consisting of representatives of the Education Department, of the Universities, and of the teaching profession, and that in future the annual endorsements on teachers' certificates should be abolished. 7. That a scheme of superannuation for teachers should be provided to enable managers to keep up the efficiency of the school staff by the retirement of aged and incapacitated teachers. 8. That additional pecuniary help should be given to schools which are necessarily small, to enable them to provide an efficient staff and suitable school appliances.

CAMBRIDGE CLASS LISTS.

The class lists of the higher local examinations held by the University of Cambridge at various centres were issued yesterday, together with supplementary tables showing the success and failure of each candidate in the several subjects. The Low Memorial Prize is awarded to G. G. Walrond, Notting-hill High School. Gratuities of £5 each are awarded to O. M. M. Hall, 14, Burlington-street, Blackburn ; M. Reddan, Notting-hill High School ; G. G. Walrond, Notting-hill High School ; M. V. Vernon, Manchester High School for Girls ; and E. C. Abbott, Aske's Haberdashers' School for Girls.

MARRIAGE OF GENERAL SIR T. WESTROPP McMAHON, C.B.

The Rev. Canon Wilberforce, brother-in-law of the bride, officiated yesterday at St. Paul's Church, Onslow-square, S.W., at the wedding of General Sir Thomas Westropp McMahon, C.B., Bart., colonel of the 5th Dragoon Guards, of The Sycamores, Farnborough, and 40, Queen's-gate, S.W., and Mrs. Constance Marianne Brooking, widow of the late Mr. John Brooking, of 77, Onslow-square. The bride, who was conducted to the chancel and afterwards given away by her nephew, Mr. Herbert Wilberforce, wore a dress of grey cashmere trimmed with grey silk moiré, and large sash of same. Her bonnet was of grey steel, ornamented with white feathers, and her bouquet, of large white lilies and exotics, was a masterpiece of floral art. A déjeuner was given at the bride's residence, 77, Onslow-square, and in the afternoon General Sir Thomas and Lady Westropp McMahon left for the country for the honeymoon.

AN ELECTRIC RAILWAY FOR LONDON.

At a meeting of the shareholders of the City of London and Southwark Subway Company, held yesterday afternoon at Winchester House, the directors were authorised to make arrangements for the working of the line by electricity. The subway, which, when complete, will extend from the City side of London Bridge to the Swan at Stockwell, with several stations between those two points, was originally intended to have been worked on the endless-cable principle, but the directors have, after careful investigation, arrived at the conclusion that the line can be more thoroughly, efficiently, and economically worked by electricity. Several eminent firms have, they say, expressed their readiness to undertake the work, the system which they propose to adopt being that of continuous conductors, and are so sanguine of success that they have offered to work the line on favourable terms for a number of years.

SAD DEATH OF A "POLITICAL POET."

Mr. A. Braxton Hicks, the Mid Surrey coroner, held an inquiry yesterday afternoon at the Star and Garter, Church-road, Battersea, concerning the death of Alexander McEwan, aged sixty-three years, a builder's machinist, who died under very peculiar circumstances. His son, Mr. Alexander McEwan, a Civil servant, stated that the deceased resided with him down to six weeks ago, when he went to live at 49, Maysoule-road, Battersea. His father was an advanced Radical, and had written a number of poems on political subjects, and had received letters from many celebrities. Mr. Gladstone, in acknowledging the receipt of a copy of a poem, entitled "Joiner's Chips," sent him a postcard (produced), upon which was written : "Sir, I thank you for sending me your spirited verses, and I not only hope, but confidently expect, that in no long period of life you will witness the triumph of those just principles which you and I desire to apply to the cause of Ireland.—Your very faithful and obedient servant, W. E. GLADSTONE." Mr. Parnell had also written thanking the deceased for his "words of encouragement." The witness added that his father possessed a tenor voice, and was very susceptible to literary and poetic associations. He was of a very excitable temperament, and was periodically addicted to drink. His landlady's evidence went to show that he had lately been drinking, and he had been found dead in bed at the house of a friend, who like him had lost his situation three months ago through "getting on the drink." This friend explained that the deceased made him a present of his watch, and he had deposited it with a publican whom he mentioned for a debt of 18*s.* 3*d.* As for some money that was missing, the friend stated that he had known McEwan to spend a sovereign in a public-house in an hour. Dr. Marcus Keane, who made a post-mortem examination, said he found strong evidences of chronic alcoholism in the organs. The cause of death was cardiac syncope. There was no food in the stomach. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.

HOT OR SUDDEN CHANGES OF WEATHER.—SLEEPLESSNESS.—DRAWING AN OVER-DRAFT ON THE BANK OF LIFE.—Late hours, fagged, unnatural excitement, breathing impure air, too rich food, alcoholic drink, gouty, rheumatic, and other blood poisons, biliousness, sick-headache, skin eruptions, pimples on the face, want of appetite, sourness of stomach, &c., use ENO'S FRUIT SALT. It is pleasant, cooling, health-giving, refreshing, and invigorating. You cannot overstate its great value in keeping the blood pure and free from disease. Caution.—Examine each bottle, and see the capsule is marked "ENO'S FRUIT SALT." Without it you have been imposed on by worthless imitations.

RAPID PROGRESS OF THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL.

Extraordinary progress is being made with the first section of the Manchester Ship Canal. In Cheshire, at the part where it is proposed to enter the Mersey, great docks are being cut, and between there and Ellesmere Port, a distance of a little over four miles, and comprising what is known as the Eastham section, there are engaged no fewer than 1,700 men, working day and night on the ground. There are also twenty-two locomotives employed in drawing the débris away to the spoil banks, after it is raised by eleven steam navvies or excavators. These enormous machines dig out the channel for the canal and dispose of the earth at the daily rate of nearly six hundred yards. Some forty miles of steel rails have been laid alongside the proposed canal for the purpose of facilitating the removal of the displaced rock and earth. The width of the canal from bank to bank will be three hundred feet, and at the bottom about a hundred and twenty-six feet.

ANOTHER TWOPENNY 'BUS FARE ASSAULT.

At the Mansion House police-court yesterday, William Thomas Matthews, a clerk, was charged before Alderman Sir R. N. Fowler, M.P., with an assault. The complainant was Henry Rust Allwright, an omnibus proprietor and conductor, living at Dalston. Yesterday he was on his omnibus, and the defendant rode in it from Broad-street to St. Paul's-churchyard. The conductor took twopence for the fare, to which the defendant demurred, saying it was only a penny ride. The defendant proceeded to call him a thief, which he followed up with a violent blow on the nose. The conductor pursued him, whereupon the defendant struck him four or five times in the face, giving him a severe black eye. Defendant said what he did was in self-defence. Sir Robert Fowler, fined him £2 and 10*s.* 6*d.* costs, which he at once paid.

IN THE BANKRUPTCY COURT YESTERDAY.

At the London Court of Bankruptcy yesterday, the failure was announced of Messrs. Cowlisham, Nicol and Co., of London, Manchester, New York, and elsewhere, manufacturers of silk, worsted, and mixed fabrics. Upon the application of Messrs. Byrne and Blakeston a receiving order was made upon a creditors' petition, and the proceedings were transferred to Manchester. The amount of the liabilities did not transpire.

Mr. Registrar Giffard, upon the application of Messrs. Marsland, Hewett, and Co., made a receiving order against James Humby, colliery proprietor, of Queen-street, Cheapside, and Bathampton, Bath, Somerset. The debtor states that he has no cash in hand or at the bank, and no securities or other effects.

A GHASTLY SPECTACLE.—Yesterday a horrible scene occurred in a Vienna suburban cemetery. While a coffin was being lowered to the grave one of the ropes broke, and the coffin fell in such a manner as to burst the lid open and to cause the corpse to fall out head foremost. The mourners broke out into loud lamentations, and three ladies—relatives of the deceased—fainted on witnessing the ghastly spectacle.

EXCITING SCENE AT FLAMBOROUGH HEAD.—Three ladies and two gentlemen had a narrow escape from drowning at Flamborough Head yesterday. It appears that they were about to explore, in a boat, the "Smuggler's Cave," when a heavy wave threw their boat against a rock. They sprang upon the rock to avoid being thrown into the water, and the boat immediately drifted away. The adventurers were, after a time, rescued, amid a scene of much excitement, by being drawn up the cliff with ropes.

AN OLD RUSSIAN CITY.—The *Odessa Gazette* reports the discovery of the remains of an ancient town on the right bank of the Volga. These remains are traceable over an area about two miles long by three-quarters of a mile in width. The place has been visited by a deputation from the Commission of Archives. A very considerable quantity of Arabian, Persian, and Tartar coins has been found there, besides a multitude of other objects which bear witness to the cultivated state of the inhabitants. There were remains of marble blocks, of watercourses, &c.

DROWNED.—Mrs. Warner, daughter of Mrs. Haig, of Marlow-place, Marlow, went with her two sisters to bathe at Temple Mill early yesterday morning, and getting out of her depth was drowned. A young man named Roberts hired a sailing boat at Harwich on Sunday afternoon, and put to sea with his wife and sister. Nothing has been since heard of them, and yesterday the boat was picked up empty in the harbour. It had evidently been capsized, and its occupants drowned. Roberts was an engineer, living at 34, Upper Gloucester-place, London.

THE PROPOSED LOCK AT TWICKENHAM.—A public inquiry into the proposed construction of a lock and weir in the neighbourhood of Richmond and Twickenham, with a view to a much-needed improvement of the Thames, is about to be held by an engineer appointed by the Board of Trade. At a meeting of the Richmond Vestry last night it was reported that the terms had been finally approved of, and that the appointment of the engineer would probably be the only question at issue. Within the last few days nearly a thousand pounds has been guaranteed locally towards the expenses of the inquiry.

STRANGE DEATH OF A BOY.—An inquest was opened at Southport yesterday on the body of a child named William Tillyer Rhodes, aged nine years, who was found dead under the following mysterious circumstances :—The boy was visiting Southport, and went alone to play in Hesketh Park. He did not return, and notices were issued announcing his disappearance. Nothing, however, was heard of him until Monday, when his dead body was found in an attic in an empty house near the park. The door of the attic was locked and the key nowhere to be found. The inquest was adjourned.

ACCIDENT AT THE ITALIAN EXHIBITION.—The arena of the Italian Exhibition was last night the scene of a somewhat serious accident. During the final round of an exciting race between a chariot, a horseman, and a foot-racer, the two former, when almost opposite the goal, were seen suddenly to become mixed up, and after a few seconds' struggling the horseman was thrown to the ground, and the chariot and horses passed over him, dragging him along for several yards. He was at once removed and medically attended to, having sustained severe injuries to one of his legs. Great excitement prevailed among the audience.

A PRESENT FROM THE PRINCE.—The Prince of Wales yesterday afternoon presented a handsome gold watch and chain to Chief Inspector Charles Walker, who is retiring from the police after fifty-one years' service. He has been engaged at Marlborough House ever since the Prince of Wales's marriage, and was for fifteen years previously stationed at Buckingham Palace. His Royal Highness, in making the presentation, congratulated Inspector Walker upon being in such good health after so long a term of service, and expressed the hope that he would live long to enjoy his well-earned pension. The Princess of Wales added her congratulations and good wishes.

WHERE OUR "MEN OF THE TIME" ARE BORN.

THE following interesting analysis of the birthplaces of the most notable "Men of the Time" is extracted from Dr. A. Conan Doyle's paper in the *Nineteenth Century* for August. The shortcomings of "Men of the Time" have often been complained of. The present table will enable residents in every county to see how incomplete is the list of notables in that standard work of reference. The allocation of notables to counties is governed in every case by the accident of birthplace :—

THE NORTHERN COUNTIES (1 in 43,000).

NORTHUMBERLAND (1 in 22,000).

Sir G. B. Airy
Sir Daniel Gooch
Lord Armstrong
Burdon Sanderson
Birket Foster
Robert Stephenson

CUMBERLAND (1 in 24,000).

Sir Wilfrid Lawson
Mrs. Lynn Linton

DURHAM (1 in 57,000).

The late Mrs. E. B. Browning
Clarkson Stanfield
Sir Charles Hartley

WESTMORELAND.—None.

YORKSHIRE (1 in 40,000).

Alfred Austin
Mrs. Bancroft
Sterndale Bennett
The Brontë family
C. W. Cope
E. Crofts
The late Sir Francis Doyle
Foster of Halifax
Miss Green
Hutchinson
Sir Frederick Leighton
C. R. Markham
The late Mark Pattison
Mr. Priestley
Lord Rosse
Professor Sidgwick

LANCASHIRE (1 in 74,000).

John Bright
Walter Crane
W. E. Gladstone
P. G. Hamerton
Hatton
Mr. Youle
John Morley
Mrs. Oliphant
The late Richard Owen
Sir R. Rawlinson
Dr. Whewell

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES (1 in 41,000).

NOTTS (1 in 32,000).

General Booth
Dr. Percy

DERBYSHIRE (1 in 75,000).

Herbert Spencer

STAFFORDSHIRE (1 in 28,000).

Professor Freeman
Francis Galton
Mary Howitt
George Mason
Mrs. Meredith
Miss Mulock
David Christie Murray
Sir Harry Parkes
J. H. Shorthouse
Barry Sullivan
W. Theed

WORCESTERSHIRE (1 in 25,000).

Hullah
Professor Beesly
The late Mrs. Henry Wood

WARWICKSHIRE (1 in 63,000).

Joseph Arch
The late George Eliot
Professor Flower
Norman Lockyer
Miss Ellen Terry

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE.

Dr. Alfred Carpenter
Sir Henry Rawlinson
G. A. Henty

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (1 in 35,000).

Sir Thomas Brown
Smedley

THE EASTERN COUNTIES (1 in 22,000).

LINCOLNSHIRE (1 in 29,000).

General Brackenbury
Francis
F. H. Hill
Mrs. Kendal
Dr. Westland Marston
Tennyson

NORFOLK (1 in 13,000).

Boughton
George Cattermole
Rider Haggard
The two Pagets
Palgrave Simpson
Mrs. Thornicroft
The two Woodwards

SUFFOLK (1 in 14,000).

Dr. Cobbold
The two Bickersteths
Miss Edwards
Hooker of Halesworth
Jean Ingelow
J. C Jeaffreson
Dr. H. B. Jones
Mrs. Keeley
The late F. D. Maurice
Dr. Meadows
Miller
"Ouida"
Agnes Strickland
Sir Henry Thompson

ESSEX (1 in 29,000).

The late Sir Charles Bright
Coventry Patmore
J. R. Robinson
Charles Spurgeon
Evelyn Wood

LONDON (1 in 16,000).

LITERATURE.

Frederic Harrison
The late J. C. Morison
Henry Morley
Cardinal Newman
Mr. W. H. Smith
Leslie Stephen

POETRY.

Browning
Eliza Cook
Sydney Dobell
W. S. Gilbert
E. W. Gosse
William Morris
Christina Rossetti
Clement Scott
G. R. Sims
Swinburne
Martin Tupper

FICTION AND JOURNALISM.

Miss Braddon
Dutton Cook
G. A. Sala
Edmund Yates

ARTISTS.

Collins
Hunt
Landseer
Turner (in the last generation)
Burgess
Cooper
Goodall
F. Holl
Holman
Horsley
Hunt
H. S. Marks
Pickersgill
Briton Riviere
Marcus Stone
G. A. Storey
Tenniel

SCIENCE.

Crookes
Ray Lankester
Sir John Lubbock
St. George Mivart
R. A. Proctor
J. G. Wood

MUSIC.

Sir H. Bishop
H. D. Leslie
Macfarren
Ouseley
C. K. Salaman
L. E. Sloper
Sir George Smart
Sir Arthur Sullivan

Professor Huxley and Sir Herbert Oakley were born at Ealing.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES (1 in 23,000).

KENT (1 in 25,000).

General Sir John Adye
Christie Coxwell
Gordon
J. B. Gough
The two Grotes (of Beckenham)
Newman Hall
Sir William Jenner
Arthur Locker
McGregor
Sir E. Reed
Sims Reeves

SURREY.—None.

SUSSEX (1 in 21,000).

Sir Edwin Arnold
Richard Cobden in the past
The late Admiral Hewitt
Florence Marryat
Isaac Todhunter
Harrison Weir

HAMPSHIRE (1 in 13,000).

Walter Besant
H. Blackburn
Isambard K. Brunel
Vicat Cole
Cowper Coles
Charles Dickens
Sarah Doudney
Joseph Hatton
George Meredith
Millais
W. N. Molesworth
Charlotte Yonge

BERKSHIRE (in in 19,000).

Richard Blackmore
Maria Edgeworth
Hallam
Herschell
"Tom Brown" Hughes
Charles Knight
Sir Charles Russell, the soldier
Goldwin Smith

WILTSHIRE (1 in 23,000).

Sir S. Canning
A. Hayward
Isaac Pitman

DORSETSHIRE (1 in 27,000).

Commander Cameron
The late W. E. Forster
Thomas Hardy

SOMERSETSHIRE (1 in 23,000).

T. H. S. Escott
Sir A. Hobhouse
Henry Irving
The two Kinglakes
Mrs. Frederick Prideaux
Helen Mather
James Sully

DEVONSHIRE (1 in 18,000).

Sir T. Bowring
Sir Redvers Buller
The late Chief Justice Cockburn
H. A. Dobson
Sir Joseph Hayter
James Anthony Froude
Baring Gould
Samuel Carter Hall
P. B. St. John Kingsley
W. H. Mallock
Captain Bedford Pim

CORNWALL (1 in 45,000).

Adams
Dr. Bastian
Leonard Courtney
Sir E. Hamley

THE WESTERN COUNTIES.

MONMOUTHSHIRE (1 in 63,000).

Lionel Brough
A. R. Wallace

GLOUCESTERSHIRE (1 in 18,000).

Rev. F. Arnold
Sir Samuel Baker
Professor Buchmann
R. E. Francillon
Bishop Fraser
Admiral Inglefield
General Lysons
T. L. Oliphant
James Payn
J. A. Symonds

SHROPSHIRE (1 in 35,000).

Darwin.

CHESHIRE (1 in 56,000).

Bowman
Lord Brassey
Sir Joseph Whitworth
The late R. Caldecott

WALES.

Boyd Dawkins
The late Bartle Frere
Lewis Morris
Brinley Richards
Stanley

SCOTLAND (1 in 22,000).

THE LOWLANDS (1 in 18,500).

Authors.

Professor Aytoun
William Black
Professor Blackie
Robert Buchanan
The late Thomas Carlyle
Robert Chambers
Robert Louis Stevenson
James Grant
Sir Theodore Martin
Norman McLeod

Art.

The two Faeds
Hart
McWhirter
Orchardson
Pettie
Thorburn

Science.

Sir David Brewster
"Glacier" Forbes
Professor Geikie
Simpson
The late Balfour Stewart

Sir Archibald Alison
Cadell
Colin Campbell
Nasmyth
The late David Livingstone

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES.

The late Rev. T. Chalmers
Professor Craik
The late John Goodsir
The late Sir Charles Lyell
Charles Mackay
Hon. A. McKenzie
Noel Paton
Samuel Smiles, of Haddington
The late John Sterling
Principal Tulloch

COUNTY of ABERDEEN.

Bain
John Hill Burton
Davidson
Donaldson
Matthews Duncan
Robertson Forbes
David Gill
Father Humphrey Legge, the Chinese scholar
George Macdonald
David Masson
John Phillips
W. R. Pirie
Joseph Robertson
Sir John Rose
Smith, the Orientalist
Steel, the sculptor

MR. PATRICK EGAN UPON "THE FORGED LETTERS."

AN INTERESTING INTERVIEW.

The *New York Herald* of the 2nd inst., just to hand, contains a report of an interview with Mr. Patrick Egan on the subject of "the Forged Letters," and the Parnell-Chamberlain controversy. Appended are extracts from the report :—

THEY KNOW WHO FORGED THE LETTERS.

Correspondent: Mr. Egan, what do you know regarding the character of the evidence upon which Parnell is being publicly indicted by the British Government?

Mr. Egan: I don't know that I have any idea that I could give you. I have already denounced the letters that were published in the O'Donnell trial as forgeries. When the proper time comes Mr. Parnell will prove them to be forgeries by undeniable testimony, and will not only prove them forgeries, but will prove their authorship. I believe that the *Times* was imposed upon.

ONE OF THE WRITERS.

Correspondent: What about the other letter which the *Times* and the Government claim to hold and which have not yet been produced?

Mr. Egan: Of course those letters will undoubtedly be from the same source and of the same character as the others. There is one letter, I forget the date, but it's the one of which the *Times* published a facsimile, which I think it publicly proved at the time was written by a party named [—— ——]. That was one of the letters that figured in the O'Donnell suit, and stands against Parnell in this inquiry Commission. Attorney-General Webster stated that the body of that letter was in the handwriting of Mr. Henry Campbell, Mr. Parnell's secretary. I have examined that letter from the facsimile very carefully, and it bears no more resemblance to Campbell's writing than it does to that of the man in the moon. I know just what kind of a hand Campbell writes. He was my secretary for a time in Paris.

NO OTHER EVIDENCE.

Correspondent: Don't you think, from what you have read, that the *Times* or the Government has other evidence that we know nothing of?

Mr. Egan: No; they cannot possibly have any evidence. They probably think they have, but whatever they have is manufactured and of the same character.

Correspondent: What about the statement that Parnell was betrayed by some woman?

Mr. Egan: There is not a word of truth in that. Parnell is not a man that has *les sens*. There is no truth in it.

EGAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS OUTRAGE.

Correspondent: Do you apprehend from the scope of the Parliamentary Commission that they are searching for you?

Mr. Egan: Of course. The idea conveyed by the published letter was that Parnell wrote to me suggesting assassination, and that I wrote to my agents to have it carried out. I was then the head and front of the Irish organization, with headquarters at Paris. The position I took upon that subject all along was simply this: I was asked by a London newspaper one time why I would not issue some proclamation denouncing assassination and outrage. Well, I said that I did not sympathize with and certainly would not encourage either assassination or outrage, but I considered it no portion of my duty to act as a special constable for the English Government; that when they suppressed the constitutional movement they invited attacks of that kind; that they might have been prepared for retaliation.

Correspondent: That was your position, was it, during the Phœnix Park period?

Mr. Egan: Yes, we hold those views to-day, and think they are the correct views. As a matter of fact, while the League had almost entire control of matters in Ireland during the entire year of 1880 there were only five murders in Ireland, while in Philadelphia during the same year there were forty-seven murders.

THE PHŒNIX PARK MURDERS.

Correspondent: When was your name first mentioned in connection with the Phœnix Park murders?

Mr. Egan: Not until a considerable time after the trial. It was stated by Attorney-General Webster in the O'Donnel case that an indictment for murder was found against Thomas Brennan, now of Omaha, and myself. There was no such indictment against either of us. There was no statement by Carey that I was ever connected with him. Carey was asked did he think the funds came from the League, and he said that he did not think they did. Now as regards Brennan, he was in prison from the 23rd of May, 1881, until June, 1882, nearly twelve months before and a month after the date of the Phœnix Park murders. Therefore he could not have had any hand in it. The investigation at that time was very full, and enormous sums of money were spent. So far as I could see they appeared to get down to the very bottom of the conspiracy, and they could find nothing directly or indirectly to implicate Parnell or any other of the leaders.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S POLICY AND METHODS.

Mr. Egan, in the course of further observations, said :—I know that during the whole time Chamberlain was a member of the Cabinet he was communicating Cabinet secrets to the Irish party. He was doing so all the time with a view to undermine Mr. Gladstone. More than that, he tried through certain members of the Irish party to undermine Mr. Parnell as a leader in order to induce others to come forward, and thus make a split in the party. He tried, on the one hand, to undermine the Cabinet by giving away its secrets, and on the other hand to divide the Irish party.

Correspondent: Do you think Mr. Chamberlain ought to ask for an investigation?

Mr. Egan: Certainly, if he is a man of honour. He has been the worst traitor to the English party it ever had. He has been a traitor to every party to which he belonged and to every principle.

Correspondent: Could this charge of Mr. Parnell's be made to apply to any of Chamberlain's associates in the Cabinet?

Mr. Egan: I don't know that it could.

Correspondent: Was the information that Chamberlain gave your party while a Minister of value to you?

Mr. Egan: Oh, yes; it was of considerable importance from time to time.

Correspondent: What was Chamberlain's object or his compensation?

Mr. Egan: Well, to discredit Gladstone—that has been his aim for a long time. And he wanted, if possible, to ingratiate himself with the Irish party. He desired to build himself up by putting other leaders down. That has been his policy for a considerable time past.

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee, Mr. HENRY IRVING.)

EVERY EVENING (except Saturday), at 8.15,
Mr. RICHARD MANSFIELD as
DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE.

MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.
Box-office (Mr. J. Hurst) open daily from 10 to 5.

CRITERION THEATRE.

(Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM.)

BETSY, the celebrated Criterion Comedy, by F. C. BURNAND, THIS EVENING at 9, with the original cast, including Messrs. W. Blakeley, H. Standing, A. Maltby, A. Boucicault, and Geo. Giddens; Mesdames Rose Saker, F. Robertson, E. Terriss, F. Moore, E. Penrose, and Lottie Venne. Preceded by, at 8.15, THE DOWAGER. Messrs. H. Standing, E. Emery, C. Crofton; Mesdames E. Terriss, F. Moore, and Rose Saker. Doors open 7.45. N.B.—Stage and Auditorium Lighted entirely by Electricity.

ADELPHI THEATRE.

(A. and S. GATTI, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)

THIS EVENING, at Eight, THE UNION JACK. Mr. William Terriss; Messrs. C. Cartwright, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, L. Cautley, D. Somers, H. Russell, H. Halley, &c.; Miss Millward; Mesdames Helen Forsyth, O. Nethersole, D. Drummond, E. Bufton, and Clara Jecks. At 7.15, THE REFUGEES. Mr. D. Somers, Miss Agnes Miller, &c.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. THOMAS THORNE.)

JOSEPH'S SWEETHEART. 151st Time. Great success. TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, a New Comedy in Five Acts, by ROBERT BUCHANAN, entitled JOSEPH'S SWEETHEART. Last Nights for the present. Preceded, at 7.45, by a new One Act Play, entitled THE BROTHERS, by H. Byatt. Messrs. W. Rignold, C. Maude, J. S. Blythe, S. Butt, F. Gillmore, F. Grove, J. Wheatman, and Fred Thorne; Mesdames G. Homfrey, Arnold, McNeill, Harrison, Maunders, and Kate Rorke. Box-office open 10 till 6.30.

GAIETY THEATRE.

Miss SOPHIE EYRE.

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THE BEST BOOKS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

A writer in the New York *Independent* discusses what kind of books should be placed in Sunday School libraries. A supply of suitable new books is clearly very necessary, if it be true as stated that since the "Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society" came into being they have sold four tons of the old "goody-goody" kind of books as waste paper. The *Independent's* advice is as follows:—

I have learned that it is not safe to accept any book on the merit of the author without careful examination. Mrs. Burnett has written the sweet, helpful stories of "Little Lord Fauntleroy" and "That Lass o' Lowrie's," but she has also written "Through One Administration," a book which should go into no Sunday-school library. While Pansy is almost always true and helpful, her book, "From Different Standpoints," is considered objectionable by many. This is true also of Louisa Alcott's "Moods." Very few persons would think of disapproving of George MacDonald's "Annals of a Quiet Neighbourhood" or "The Marquis of Lossie," but many object to "Robert Falconer" as unsettling to the simple Christian faith of the young.

Mayne Reid is an author whose books must be selected with care. They are very fascinating to the average boy, and some of them may legitimately satisfy his taste for thrilling adventure. Such stories as "The Cliff Climbers," "The Wood Rangers," "The Plant Hunters," "The Forest Exiles," and "The Young Voyageurs," have undoubtedly stimulated many a boy to a healthful love of woods life. A minister who finds his greatest recreation and pleasure during his summer vacation in plunging into the almost unknown wilderness, testifies that his first taste for this healthful enjoyment was given by the reading of Mayne Reid's books. I must, however, warn the boys against some of them. Banish "Oceola," "The Scalp Hunters," "The War Trail," "The White Chief," and "The Wild Huntress" from the shelves.

Jules Verne is a writer condemned by many; but some of his books I believe to be healthful and stimulating. It is a natural step from his "At the North Pole," and "Desert of Ice" to Kane's "Arctic Explorations" and other works on exploration. It is true that Verne blends fact and fiction so skilfully that it is difficult to distinguish between them; but I believe that his books of the character of those mentioned do stimulate a taste for reliable works of travel and exploration.

The older boys and girls should be encouraged to read Sir Samuel Baker's, Paul du Chaillu's, Livingstone's, and Stanley's wonderful travels in Africa; Parkman's "Oregon Trail"; Irving's "Astoria" and "Captain Bonneville's Adventures"; Bayard Taylor's "Travels"; and Isabella Bird's "Unbeaten Tracks in Japan" and "Life in the Rocky Mountains."

Librarians testify that it is more difficult to supply reading for girls than for boys. This would not be true if girls were encouraged, as I believe they should be, to read the same books which their brothers read. Why should a girl not enjoy works of travel and adventure, historical stories and juvenile books of popular science, as well as fairy tales, the quieter pictures of home life, and the never-failing love story?

A girl has the advantage of a boy in her reading, in that her mind develops and matures much earlier; so that she may safely begin to read at the early age of thirteen or fourteen authors which boys had better leave until some years later. A girl of thirteen may not appreciate the keen edge of satire and the fine analysis of character in Dickens's and Thackeray's novels, but she will find much that she can understand and enjoy, and her taste will be cultivated for the best reading. These authors are not so safe for immature boys, for too often their pictures of certain vices are painted in a light to awaken admiration rather than abhorrence in the mind of a boy.

A BRITISH MUSEUM GRIEVANCE.

It is generally supposed that a copy of any book can be seen at the British Museum; but this is not so. "I had occasion to day," writes a correspondent, "to ask for a book published by one of the University publishers, and one which has gone through at least five editions, but I was told after much trouble-some research that they 'had not got it.' It says but little for the system of supervision at the public galleries that edition after edition is allowed to come out without any notation being made in the general catalogues of that place."

A FIGHT WITH A RATTLESNAKE.

A writer in the *Statesman* of India, signing himself R.M., who was once head of the Crown Lands Department in the colony of Trinidad, says:—In company with a half-breed, who combined the vocations of woodman and hunter, I stumbled suddenly on a large specimen of the *crotalus mutus* slowly winding its way among the leafy débris of the forest. For some time ti was difficult to discern the scaly folds of the snake through the brown mass of decaying foliage, but having reached a clear spot the reptile coiled round a low stump and prepared for action. About a yard of the body next the head was contracted into numerous sharp curves not unlike a corkscrew, while the yellow eyes gleamed with a baleful light. There was little fascination about these orbs, and no mistaking the malignant intentions of their owner. A stick brought within reach of that mortal coil was struck almost with the rapidity of lightning, no matter how swiftly withdrawn. This was effected by the instantaneous straightening of the short curves into which this portion of the body had been contracted. Even the wily mongoose would have needed all his marvellous agility to avoid the deadly stroke if once within range. The reach was about a yard, and the assault was delivered horizontally some six inches from the ground, directly towards the assailant. The hunter who had hitherto kept at a respectful distance, as he alleged the snake could spring, was eventually persuaded to approach sufficiently near to strike it with a ten-foot pole. At the first blow the heavy coils relaxed from the stump, and the creature appeared dead or stunned. The writer at once grasped the neck about two inches from the head, and raised the reptile partly from the ground to examine it. As though galvanized into life by the touch, the crotalus seemed at once to recover its energies, and swiftly made a couple of turns round the thigh and right arm of its would-be captor.

The constricting power exercised was such that the hand grasping the neck soon began to lose power, and the writer realized the awkward predicament into which his temerity had led him. Little could be done with the free left hand while the "scaly terror" began slowly to withdraw its head from the relaxing grasp of the right. For some seconds the trembling woodman appeared deaf to entreaty, and could not be persuaded to apply a noose of liana to the snake's neck. The largest serpents become paralyzed when properly noosed, and are readily dragged along the ground helpless as a log. Just as the snake's head seemed about to ooze through the numbed fingers, the half-breed screwed up his courage sufficiently to apply the liana, as directed, with the result that the brute at once relaxed its coils, and was dragged down to a neighbouring stream, hung up, and skinned. It measured eight feet five inches, and was about as thick in the largest part of the body as the calf of a man's leg. The fangs, which were carefully extracted, measured an inch and a quarter in length, and were hollow to within a short distance of the point, where on the inner side lay the orifice through which the poison was ejected by the action of the base of the fan on the small bag in which it was secreted. On squeezing the bag a small quantity of poison, a yellowish fluid, passed down the hollow in the tooth, and gathered into a tiny drop of concentrated death. The stomach contained two wood-rats about the size of guinea-pigs, one partially digested, the other recently swallowed.

FROM THE TURMOIL OF THE STREETS TO QUIET MEDITATION.

A Plea for the Opening of Churches on Weekdays.

Some correspondence on the opening of churches on weekdays has passed between the Earl of Carnarvon and the Archbishop of Canterbury. In the course of it Lord Carnarvon wrote: "I desire to see the churches in our large towns opened during a certain part of every day. In some cases this is already done, and in none have I heard of the least mischief arising from the practice. On the contrary, advantage is often taken of the open doors—sometimes by occasional passers-by, sometimes by those who find a mental rest in withdrawing, if only for a few minutes, from the fret and turmoil of the streets into the congenial silence of a building the associations of which invite to meditation; and there are many for whom this momentary diversion from the busy highway of life has a charm—perhaps all the greater as [their life is busier. . . . Your grace may perhaps remember a suggestive passage in the great Italian poet where he represents the Guardian of Heaven's gate instructed rather to err on the side of opening than of keeping it closed. So I would venture to plead that the material doors of our churches should be opened rather than locked, and that wherever local objections are not insuperable an experiment should be made which, if it succeeds, can only do good, and which, if it fails, can easily be discontinued."

The Archbishop of Canterbury replied that he had long had at heart the opening of churches for private prayer, that he had never known the trial once made given up as a failure. "Many of our devout poor," his grace observes, "can find neither space nor quiet for the solitary closet prayer which 'the Father seeth.' For them the retirement of the spacious lonely church is the 'closet' of Christ. I have known it so, not only for them, but for the active young workman in his dinner hour. But not they only—many who have room enough and time enough have thanked God for giving them there, in still moments, refreshment, strength, and a deeper understanding of why 'His House is called the House of Prayer.'" His grace hopes that the expression of valued opinions on this subject would lead many of those responsible for the custody of churches to consider whether their own church could not become more helpful even than at present to personal religion.

The following have expressed concurrence with the views set forth:—The Bishops of London, Durham, Winchester, and Peterborough, the Duke of Westminster, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Bishops of Sydney, New South Wales, and of New York, Earl Stanhope, the Earl of Meath, the Earl of Jersey, the Dean of St. Paul's, Canon Liddon, the Rev. H. White, Sir John Kennaway, Lord Egerton of Tatton, Sir Fowell Buxton, Lord Addington, and Sir James Paget.

GOVERNMENT AND ITS POCKET PENCILS.

"A friend of mine," writes a correspondent, "fills a berth in a Government department which shall be nameless. This department issues pocket pencils to its subordinates, worth, I should say, about eightpence a dozen. The pencils are good, however, which is more than can be said for Government stores as a rule; and my friend, preferring them to any other species, asked for a fresh supply. He fondly thought that this was a mere matter of form, but he was wrong. He was informed by post, of course, that his request would be considered; and, after waiting about a week pencil-less, he received a minute, couched in official language, and occupying three sides of notepaper, to the effect that as it had been discovered that he had had two pencils within the last three months his application could not be granted! He is a reckless man, and he offered to buy and pay for a dozen of these pencils, but the department sternly declined to supply them. After this who can say that our public offices are extravagant?"

A CURE FOR INSOMNIA.

"So many cures have been advocated for sleeplessness that I am tempted," writes a correspondent, "to propound my own recipe, which, if it may appear somewhat impracticable and far-fetched, has at least the advantage of simplicity. It is merely this: when you have tossed and tumbled about one bed until your pillow seems to be on fire and your sheets red-hot, turn into another—I mean another bed. You will find the sheets and the pillow refreshingly cool, and it is probable at all events that you will go to sleep. The recipe is not infallible, and it is of course necessary to have another bed to turn into, which is not always possible. But when practicable it is worth trying; and if it fails one can always fall back on the undoubted fact that there is no universal cure for sleeplessness. What is one man's meat is another man's poison."

TO DEATH IN HER BRIDAL ROBES.

A romantic case of attempted suicide is reported from Buda-Pest. As the morning express from Vienna was approaching the station of Palota a girl in a white bridal dress and a wreath of orange-blossoms on her head rushed out from a copse, and threw herself in front of the engine. Before the train could be stopped the locomotive had passed over her body. The unfortunate creature, fearfully mutilated, was conveyed to Buda-Pest, where on reaching the railway station her legs had to be amputated. Although her case is critical, hope is entertained of saving her life. It appears that the girl, who is only eighteen, was a governess residing close to the spot where the attempted suicide occurred. The faithlessness of the man to whom she was engaged to be married is said to have driven her to her desperate resolve.

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THE PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON (LIMITED), 39, Lombard-street, London, E.C.

REPORT on the FINANCIAL POSITION of the ASSOCIATION by Messrs. WHINNEY, HURLBATT, and SMITH, Chartered Accountants, and EXTRACT from the REPORT of Mr. RALPH PRICE HARDY, Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries.

Mr. R. P. HARDY, F.I.A., under date August 8, reported as follows to Messrs. Whinney, Hurlbatt, and Smith:—

I certify that, as the result of my investigation and valuation, and in my opinion and judgment, the sum of £71,936 fairly and properly represents the "accrued liability" of the Association under its several bond or certificate engagements; that, with such sum invested in sound securities, together with the future contributions (not less than four per cent. interest being realized), the Association will be able—

1. To discharge all the existing Bonds, or Certificates, as they mature.
2. To defray the expenses of and incident to the management, as attributable to the collection of the renewal income and to the superintendence of the investments (in all not exceeding 17½ per cent. of the contributions received).
3. To meet the surrender values and repayments on the contributors' deaths: and
4. To provide a fund out of which drawings may be periodically made.

All excess of interest realized over the valuation rate of 4 per cent., and any miscellaneous profits, will be available for dividends, or for additional drawings.

RALPH P. HARDY, Actuary.

Messrs. WHINNEY, HURLBATT, and SMITH, Chartered Accountants, under date 11th August, thereupon issued the following Report:—

In pursuance of the instructions contained in a minute passed at a meeting of the Board held on the 17th April, 1888, we have made an exhaustive examination of the accounts of the Association, and we are now in a position to report, as directed, upon the financial position of the Company, which is shown by the accompanying balance sheet of the 30th April, 1888.

We have had unrestricted access to all the Company's books and documents, and have received every possible assistance from the officials. We stipulated that we should have the assistance of an independent actuary to be appointed by ourselves, and we accordingly nominated Mr. Ralph Price Hardy, F.I.A. His report, dated the 8th instant, the result of which is embodied in the balance-sheet, is annexed:

The balance-sheet speaks for itself. It shows that—

After providing for all ascertained liabilities	£81,045 12 7
The capital remains intact	13,471 10 0
And there is a reserve of	5,989 7 10
Total assets	£100,506 10 5

With reference to the assets, we have to observe as follows:—

Investments	£96,405 10 2

The whole of the securities for these investments have been produced to us. To the extent of £81,237 18s. 10d. they are, as stated, lodged at the Consolidated Bank, in the names of the Trustees, Lord Byron and Mr. Morgan Lloyd, Q.C.

As regards the value of the investments—

Consols, 2¾ per cent.	£4,987 10 0
British Colonial and Corporation Stocks	26,937 10 0
British Colonial and Corporation Stocks	5,050 0 0
And Debenture stocks	570 0 0

are stated at the medium Stock Exchange quotations of the day.

Loans on stocks and shares	£11,338 17 2
Do. do. do.	180 14 11

£11,114 3s. 9d. has since been paid off, and there is no reason to anticipate any loss upon the loans still current.

Mortgages	£30,419 5 1
Do.	13,060 19 9
Equitable mortgages	1,037 11 2

In all these cases we have seen the surveyors' reports. As a general rule the properties are described as fair Building Society securities, and the advances do not exceed four-fifths of the surveyors' valuation. In some few instances the advances made somewhat exceed this limit, but the cases are unimportant, and the circumstances somewhat exceptional, and in most of them the original margin of value has since been increased, either by the reduction of principal in cases of loans redeemable by periodical payments, or by subscriptions upon bonds of the Association held as collateral security.

The Company's surveyors are Messrs. Harman Brothers, of 75, Aldermanbury, E.C., and all London properties (a very large proportion of the whole) have been reported upon by them.

Freehold Ground Rents	£1,571 7 6

These stand in the accounts at an average of 19 years' purchase.

Leasehold Property	£300 0 0

This is the cost of a house which was for sale by auction, and was subsequently, on the recommendation of the Company's surveyors, who were also the auctioneers, purchased by the Association at the reserve price, which was not reached at the sale.

Properties in Possession	£2,231 15 6

We have had before us the surveyors' reports, and full information as to these properties, and after careful consideration of all the circumstances, and having regard to the fact that there is no need for enforced sales, we are of opinion that the above figure is a fair and reasonable estimate of the value of these assets.

Loans on reversions and life policies and other securities	£229 10 3 105 4 9
Life interests, policies, and other securities	£158 10 0

The securities in these cases are in their nature of a speculative character, but we have no reason to suppose that they are inadequate.

Loans on bonds of the Association	£1,222 13 8
,, on Preference Shares ,,	1,034 12 5

These are of a character too doubtful to admit of their being treated as effective assets. Credit can only be taken as and when received for anything which may hereafter be recovered from them. As regards the loans on bonds, to the extent of the Company's liability on the bonds, there will, of course, be a corresponding reduction in the liability upon the assurance fund. The loans on preference shares cannot be considered available towards meeting the engagements to creditors, but they are, of course, good assets as between the shareholders.

The total of the investments is, as will be seen, £96,405 10s. 2d. Although, for the reasons stated, we consider all these assets good, it is, of course, prudent that provision should be made for unforeseen contingencies, and this, we think, is more than sufficiently done by the reserve fund of £5,000.

Cash at Bank and in hand	£2,134 2 4

This has been duly verified.

Bondholders' contributions and agents' balances in arrear	£7,648 0 2

The exceptional circumstances of the past few months have, as was to be expected, given rise to some irregularity in the payment of the bondholders' contributions. It is consequently difficult to estimate accurately the amount which will be realized from the above, and a very moderate estimate of £1,500 has, therefore, been adopted. This figure is to a very great extent based upon the actual cash receipts since the 30th April.

Calls on Preference Shares unpaid	£553 10 0

These calls are due from 87 shareholders (including the seven original subscribers to the Memorandum of Association for £5 each on one Share subscribed for by them). Some few of the debtors are paying slowly by instalments.

WHINNEY, HURLBATT, and SMITH.

NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION (LIMITED)

Capital—£2,000,000; Subscribed and Paid-up, £500,000.

Head Office.—40, Threadneedle-street, London.

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West-end Branch, 25, Cockspur-street, S.W.

EDINBURGH AGENCY.—23, St. Andrew-square.

BRANCHES.—Aden, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Mauritius, Hong Kong, Mahé (Seychelles), Shanghai, Tamatave, Teheran, and in Australia, Ceylon, and Japan.

The Bank Buys and Sells Bills of Exchange, makes Telegraphic Transfers, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes available throughout the world, forwards Bills for Collection, undertakes the Purchase and Sale of Securities, holds them for safe custody and realizes interest and dividends, collects pay and pensions, pays insurance premiums and club subscriptions, and transacts Banking and Agency Business generally.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS.

At 3, 5, or 7 years notice,	5	per cent.	per annum.
,, 9 to 12 months	4½	,,	,,
,, 6, 7, & 8 ,,	4	,,	,,
,, 3, 4, & 5 ,,	3	,,	,,

GEORGE WILLIAM THOMSON, Secretary.

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INCOME AND FUNDS (1887).

Fire Premiums £607,000 | Life Premiums	£197,000
Interest	£143,000
Accumulated Funds	£3,421,000

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